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# WKU eyes admission standards

2-8-95 DN a

By JAMES M. SLAGLE  
*The Daily News*

Western Kentucky University could this week outline ways to toughen its admission standards.

The possible changes are among several policy ideas expected to be announced at 2:30 p.m. Friday by President Thomas Meredith during a forum at Downing University Center.

The changes are part of Meredith's discussion paper titled "Moving to a New Level While Keeping Old Traditions." He hopes to implement some of the suggestions in the paper by the fall.

The meeting Friday will be to gather opinions from faculty members. Meredith has said he then would discuss the paper in-depth with the university's Board of Regents, which is its governing body.

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*The changes are part of Meredith's discussion paper titled 'Moving to a New Level While Keeping Old Traditions.'*

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Regent Ray Mendel said one of the hottest topics in the discussion paper is the suggestion the university raise its admission standards.

Meredith's proposal calls for raising to 20 the required ACT college entrance exam test score within three years and also stipulating a 2.5 high school grade point average is necessary for admission. Western

Continued Back Page  
Column 4, This Section

WKU 2-8-95 DN b

continued from Page 1

now requires a 17 ACT score and 2.2 grade point average.

Those who haven't met those standards would be allowed to attend Western after earning 24 credit hours at the university's Community College.

Some faculty members were worried that tightening admission standards would cut attendance, Mendel said. Although he doesn't see anything wrong with raising academic

expectations, Mendel said that with the number of high school graduates attending college in Kentucky already low, many faculty members did not want to do anything that would lower the numbers further.

Other universities that have put more stringent standards into place have not experienced such declines, but rather have seen increases in enrollment, Mendel said.

"Quality sells," he said.

# Salary hike could be on way at WKU

By ROB OLMSTEAD

The Daily News 2-10-95 DN

Salary increases of 3 to 5 percent have been proposed for Western Kentucky University teachers, a member of the University's Budget Committee said Thursday at a Faculty Senate meeting.

Charles Hayes was briefing Senate members on proposals to the committee and on what money is available in the coming year's budget. He added that 5 percent increases would only be possible if some current funding of other university budget items — such as operating budget increases — was relocated.

President Thomas Meredith attended the meeting and addressed the assembly, but did not discuss possible salary increases. He was unavailable for comment about Hayes' figures.

Faculty Senate Chairman Marvin Leavy did not name any specific figures he thought appropriate for salary increases, but said: "I am pleased that the university has gone on record as having instruction, research and the university libraries as the top priorities for budget increases next year."

The category of instruction includes faculty salaries, Leavy said. The record he was referring to was a statement the board passed in October, he said.

The Senate also received a committee report on faculty salary averages by department for 1994-95. By the next meeting on March 9, the figures will be averaged for the entire university.

The report showed that 1994-95 individual salaries vary widely. The highest paid faculty member makes \$80,340 — a professor who works year-round — while the lowest paid makes \$22,380 — an instructor working nine months a year. An increase of 4 percent would raise those salaries to \$84,399 and \$23,499.

The faculty average salary for 1993-94 was \$41,343, making it second-highest in the state among master's degree institutions, a state report showed.

The Council on Higher Education released comparisons of state school average salaries both with one another and with the regional average. Western's average salary was slightly lower than the average for other comparable Southern state universities of \$41,654.

## WKU Police, state wage incentives battle

A Daily News report 2-17-95  
DN

The state Justice Cabinet has appealed a Warren Circuit Court ruling that would force it to award 20 WKU Police officers a total of \$50,000 in incentive pay each year.

WKU Police will try to defend its initial victory, which came in 1994 before Judge Tom Lewis.

The fight is centered on a state statute that awards police officers \$2,500 a year if they complete a training session annually. The state has argued it does not apply to campus police forces, while the university maintains it does.

The issue is important, said WKU Police Chief Horace Johnson, because without the incentive officers are consistently siphoned off to the Bowling Green police department, whose officers receive the extra money.

"We train them ... and then the City of Bowling Green takes them," Johnson said.

Johnson also said they are worried because the forces wants to ensure its officers continue to be professionally trained.

Heidi Engel, an attorney for the Justice Cabinet, said she thought it was inappropriate to comment while the case was up for appeal.

According to Western Kentucky University attorney Deborah Wilkins, the young age of most of the Western campus makes the issue particularly relevant. The incentive is funded by a surtax on car insurance and young drivers typically pay the highest rates, and thus taxes, for car insurance.

The university filed its response to the appeal last week, Ms. Wilkins said.

# Proposed ethics code causing stir among some WKU faculty

By JOHN MARTIN 3-21-95  
The Daily News DW

Faculty, students and staff at Western Kentucky University could be left in the dark about Board of Regents activities if an ethics policy proposed by the student regent is adopted, some faculty assert.

Student Regent Rob Evans, an Owensboro senior, is suggesting that the board impose an ethics policy on itself that would prevent board members from publicly discussing "confidential" information.

Evans said he doesn't yet know what would become confidential under his policy that is not confidential now. That would need to be discussed at length by regents and other key Western players, he said.

"It's in its infantile stages," he said.

Some faculty are troubled by what the word "confidential" could mean in a regents ethics code because they believe university business should be done in open view.

"I really believe information should be public unless there's a compelling reason why it should not be," Faculty Regent Ray Mendel said.

Bart White, president of Western's American Association of University Professors, said, "I think

it's a good idea to have an ethics code, but I think it's very dangerous when an ethics code is presented that smacks of censorship."

Mendel told colleagues at a briefing Monday he also supports an ethics code provided it does not gag regents. In fact, he said he raised the idea last summer after former student regent Donald Smith, a grandson of former Western President Dero Downing, accepted employment at Western's Department of Alumni Affairs.

Mendel said he doesn't think Smith used any improper influence to obtain the employment. But he said he was concerned about appearances, and that's why he raised the ethics policy discussion.

"It had the appearance of the good old boy system operating, and it really bothered me," Mendel said.

The ethics proposal offered by Evans has two parts. It contains a series of provisions common to many public agencies and authored by the National Association of Governing Boards.

But another section, which contains the confidentiality provisions, apparently was authored by Evans. Mendel suggested it might be rooted

Continued Back Page  
Column 4, This Section

Incomplete

# Code of silence should be weighed carefully by regents

9-21-95  
DN

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents should consider carefully before imposing on itself a code of silence that suggests pre-approval of actions by the president.

A code of conduct — a name crafted from "code of ethics" by a committee of regents — has been drawn up by former Western student Regent Rob Evans. Western's full board is scheduled to consider the measure Friday.

Language in the code originally proposed at Western stirred debate and was changed by the committee. "Support the president" became "support the presidency." A confidentiality requirement for board deliberations became the following: "maintain the confidentiality of board deliberations which are required by Kentucky law to be kept confidential."

It sounds better. Western faculty Regent Ray Mendel, a sometimes vocal critic of President Thomas Meredith's spending priorities, said the new language made him feel far more comfortable.

Indeed, Meredith's policies, like those of any university president's, sometimes have been subjected to overwrought criticism that seemed aimed entirely at obstructing. Still, we have reservations about any policy that suggests lack of oversight on the part of the regents.

The journey from "support the presidency" to "support the president" can be a short one. Other boards in other states have passed codes that obligated them to "support the president."

What a shame it would be if Western's regents ever forfeit their right to speak out; indeed, their obligation to act in the interests of the taxpayers and the university, even independently of the presidency if necessary.

Boards of regents were created to set policy for university administrators and to hold administrators accountable. Administrators are hired to execute those policies and they are responsible to the regents, not vice versa. Government agencies, and that includes public universities, are beholden to the taxpayers, who support them. In higher education, regents are charged with the oversight of universities and their primary obligation is to the taxpayers and the university, not the president.

The regents' room should be the setting for an open forum. Scrutiny of the president's performance is part of the regents' job.

Unless regents are willing to discharge that responsibility in the interests of the taxpayers and the university itself there is no need for the regents.

# Board of regents to consider code

9-22-95 DN

By JOHN MARTIN  
*The Daily News*

Some believe that language in a code of conduct being considered by Western Kentucky University's board of regents could punish regents for disagreeing with President Thomas Meredith.

Controversy about the proposal — which will be taken up by the board at its 1:30 p.m. meeting today — is rooted in a single word. A draft that was discussed by a committee of regents Sept. 7 included an admonition that regents "support the president."

After Faculty Regent Ray Mendel and Staff Regent Joy Gramling said the command could gag them from airing views contrary to the president's, the committee changed the line to what some viewed as a more neutral "support the presidency."

After the committee meeting, Mendel said he was more comfortable with that language. But Thursday, he said he has rethought his

position and now isn't sure if the new language is an improvement.

Meredith, who has said he wants to stay out of debate on the issue, commented at the committee meeting that "support the presidency" could be interpreted as meaning the regents simply support having a university president.

"If that's all it's saying, do we even need to say it?" Mendel asked. "I don't think we need to have as part of our code something that states the obvious."

Mendel said that if his constituents on Western's faculty ask for his view on an issue, he must feel free to give it regardless of whether it is the same as the president's.

Some regents said they would have no problem with "support the president" or with "support the presidency." Regent Fred Mudge of Russellville said he interprets either line as meaning that regents have a responsibility to support the institution's mission and direction.

VF. Code of Conduct

9-22-95 10

## Western proposal spurs suspicion

BOWLING GREEN — A phrase in a proposed code of conduct for regents of Western Kentucky University — that the board of regents has a duty "to support the presidency" — has some people suspecting an effort to muffle dissent.

"It seems to me that I should be able to disagree with an issue without having that be so disruptive to the president that he can't do his job," faculty regent Ray Mendel said.

But Rob Evans, a graduate student who wrote the one-page code, said no free-speech issue was involved. "To support the president in the normal day-to-day operations is really important," said Evans, until recently the board's student representative.

Western President Thomas Meredith said he did not ask the board to include the provision in the code.

The board could vote on Evans' draft today. Most of it deals with board duties and policies.



# Ethics code wording raises objections <sup>1-27-95 ON</sup>

## Board says no one should feel code stifles right to expression

By JOHN MARTIN  
*The Daily News*

Western Kentucky University regents passed a code of conduct for themselves Friday despite two regents' objections about the wording of one point.

A line in the code of conduct that requires regents to "support the presidency" was changed to "support the president in his or her fulfillment of the directions and policies of the board of regents."

Faculty Regent Ray Mendel and Staff Regent Joy Gramling had said they were opposed to language directing regents to support the president or presidency. Such language might prevent regents from expressing opinions that were contrary to the president's, they said.

The amendment was offered by Regent Howard Gray of Lexington, who explained that his new wording should be interpreted as meaning that once the board makes a decision, all regents are to support it. Prior to the board making a decision, regents may speak out about their own views regardless of whether they are in sync with the president's views, Gray said.

Gray said he hoped his amendment would clear up any worries.

"I'm upset it's taken this direction, that it's focused on this presi-

dent and this presidency," he said. "We will support the president as long as he or she is carrying out the directions and policies of the board."

Chairman Earl Fischer of Owensboro supported Gray's amendment.

"The last thing this board of regents would want to do is tie your hands," he said to Mendel and Ms. Gramling.

But Mendel said the issue was still murky to him.

"I don't want to feel shackled," he said. "I'm not sure what this language means."

To help him understand the meaning better, Mendel, who has often disagreed with President Thomas Meredith about university spending priorities and other issues, asked regents to site examples of past instances when he might have been in violation of the code as amended. Fischer and Vice Chairwoman Peggy Loafman of Bowling Green said such a discussion would be inappropriate.

Mendel sought an opinion on the code of conduct proposal from the Kentucky Local Governance Project, a Lexington-based non-profit group that supports increased citizen participation in government affairs. An attorney for the group wrote to Mendel that "support the presi-



Staff Photo by Wales Hunter

**WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY** Faculty conduct approved Friday by the university's board of Regent Ray Mendel discusses a point about a code of regents.

dent" or "support the presidency" language conflicts with another section of the code that calls on regents to "monitor the president's performance."

The phrase also raises First Amendment questions, attorney Elizabeth Natter wrote to Mendel.

Regent Kristen Bale of Glasgow

argued that Gray's language made clear the inference that regents are to support final decisions of the board.

"Let's take a unified approach," she said.

Mendel voted against Gray's amendment and against final passage of the code. Ms. Gramling

voted for Gray's amendment and against final passage of the code.

The code, which was originally proposed by former Student Regent Rob Evans, is believed to be the first of its kind at a Kentucky public university. It does not specify what penalties may be imposed on regents who violate the code.



## BRIEFLY

### WKU will examine question of nepotism

Western Kentucky University has withdrawn its request for an attorney general's opinion of a statute concerning nepotism and the board of regents.

The statute says that no one may be employed at an institution where a relative serves on the board. Faculty Regent Ray Mendel's wife, Colleen, works at Western.

Mendel has been the board's dissenting voice on some major issues and has been a critic of President Thomas Meredith. Mendel's supporters on the faculty had wondered if Western was trying to use the statute to remove him from the board.

University Counsel Deborah Wilkins has insisted that wasn't so and said she withdrew the request for an opinion so the Faculty Senate could probe the matter.

"I heard what I interpreted to be a desire to have input," she said.

Mendel will continue to serve as faculty regent, and Mrs. Mendel will remain Western's director of training and technical services.

"I'm pleased that an effort which could only create problems for everyone was not pursued," Ray Mendel said.

Ms. Wilkins left the door open, however, to making another request for an opinion, saying she wouldn't be bound to what the Faculty Senate decided.

DAILY NEWS, BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 1996

# Interactive TV helps Western take major technological step

## Interactive television

By the Daily News

The concept of interactive television is no longer just something we may see Buck Rogers use.

It's available to schools and businesses in southcentral Kentucky. Western Kentucky University on Friday used the technology to conduct a meeting in Bowling Green and Glasgow.

But what is interactive television?

- High-speed phone lines are used to send video and voice images from one location to another with unnoticeable delay.

- A video camera in one location films what's going on there and sends it to a screen in another location. A computer terminal also can be used in one location and the work being processed can be seen in another location.

- The technology allows people to participate in meetings and other activities without having to travel.

By ROBYN L. MINOR  
*The Daily News*

With one board member in Glasgow and three in Bowling Green, Western Kentucky University took a major technological step.

The Board of Regents executive committee met Friday via interactive television for the first such meeting in Western's history.

Regent Kristen Bale couldn't make it to Bowling Green for the meeting but drove to the Glasgow campus near her home. Cecile Garmon, Western's assistant vice president of finance and administration, also lives in Glasgow and joined Ms. Bale at the Glasgow campus.

"It's just like they are here with us," said Jerry Barnaby, who coordinated the technology for the meeting.

It took regents a few minutes to get used to the new technology, but after that the meeting went on as usual, said Charles Anderson, vice president of information technology.

"They had the meeting and technology didn't get in the way," he said.

While there were no votes taken

during the meeting, it would have been legal to do so, Western President Thomas Meredith said.

Technology aside, Vice President of Finance and Administration Jim Ramsey gave a presentation on university allocations. The Board of Regents wants the university to spend more money on instruction.

The university in 1994-95 spent \$40.4 million on instruction, \$151,800 on research and \$3.9 million on libraries, all totaling \$44.5 million or 57.26 percent of the total budget.

Funding in 1995-96 for instruction was \$42.7 million; funding for research was \$186,000 and funding for libraries was \$4.2 million, all totaling \$47.2 million or 58.65 percent of the overall budget.

Funds also increased in the 1996-97 budget with \$44.3 million going to instruction, \$188,169 for research and \$4.5 million for libraries, all totaling \$49 million or 58.75 percent of the total budget.

Ramsey suggested that the university change its budgeting process to be goals oriented with an evalua-



Daily News/Joe Imel

WESTERN Kentucky University Regent Peggy Loafman waits to meet with fellow Regent Kristen Bale via interactive television. Four regents participated in the first such meeting in Western's history.

tion system to determine if the money is being well-spent.

Meredith said the administration will try to develop such goals, but added, "We don't make widgets. The university is not a manufacturing plant."

## EDUCATION

# WKU's pay raises upcoming

Board of regents  
will decide the  
scope on Friday

Jan 28, 1997

By ROBYN L. MINOR  
The Daily News

Western Kentucky University's board of regents will decide Friday how much of a raise faculty and staff members will get in the coming fiscal year.

A raise of more than 1 percent would require the university to either reallocate funds or perhaps raise student fees, said Jim Ramsey, vice president of finance and administration.

"Any less than the cost of living (about 3 percent) would be a step backward," Regent Cornelius Martin said Monday during a meeting of the board's Finance Committee.

Faculty Regent Ray Mendell, who is not a member of the Finance Committee, said the university already stepped backward this year with its 3 percent raise pool — which he said was the second-lowest raise in the state.

Raises were given based on merit, so some received more and others received less than 3 percent.

A similar increase this year would cost about \$2.9 million — \$660,000 more than the university expects to get in new revenue, Ramsey said.

"And that doesn't include what would be spent for implementation of the operational plan," he said.

To fully implement the operational plan — which outlines ways to meet board-set goals — would cost \$1.8 million for such things as a technology fund for software purchases and development of technology use.

Regent Howard Gray said to meet board goals the university must evaluate the automatic raises it makes in athletics funding since no other department of the university is funded that way.

Ramsey estimated that the athletics budget would see a 3.4 percent, or \$307,000, increase.

Please see PAY RAISES, 2A

## PAY RAISES

From Page One

Regent Earl Fischer said he also thinks there should be an evaluation of whether that raise would be automatic, but he said looking at how athletics is funded would take more time than the board has.

Western President Thomas Meredith said he thinks the way athletics is funded is working well but agreed that staff members would begin to evaluate the situation once this budget is out of the way.

Gray said it should begin sooner. "My concern is that if we continue to wait, we'll find ourselves doing the same thing again next year," he said.

While no vote was taken, regents agreed that all departments would be looked at if funds had to be reallocated for this budget.

The Finance Committee also agreed to recommend that the full board reissue \$6.1 million in 1996 bonds to get a better interest rate. The 1996 rate was 6.5 percent, compared to an expected 4.5 percent — which would result in a savings of \$450,000 over the life of the bonds. The bonds are financed by the state.

—The board of regents will meet at 9 a.m. Friday in Weatherby Administration Building.

## DAILY NEWS, BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1997

### Correction

A story Tuesday about Western Kentucky University funding incorrectly listed the amount a 3.4 percent increase would mean for athletics spending. It would mean a \$65,000 increase.

# Nothing sacred in finding cash for WKU raises

Board of regents  
wants 3 percent  
for faculty, staff

## EDUCATION

Feb 2, 1997

By ROBYN L. MINOR  
*The Daily News*

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents wants to establish at least a 3 percent raise pool for faculty and staff, even if that means reallocating funds.

Nothing, the board said, would be sacred in the reallocation process.

The board voted Friday to change a long-standing policy that the athletics budget will get an automatic 3.4 percent chunk of any new money going into the university.

Regent Burns Mercer said the athletics department needs to be subject to reallocation just like any other department.

"This is an important time to send a message to the governor that we are considering everything," Regent Ray Mendel said.

Gov. Paul Patton has placed a priority on reforming higher education but state leaders have said universities must show their commitment to education and cooperation.

Mendel said the board should erase the special status that athletics has been given.

Western President Thomas Meredith asked regents several times if they really wanted to consider that change.

When they said "yes," Meredith said he wanted to make it clear the board is not picking on the athletics department because it has done something wrong.

Mercer said if administrative staff members can find money for raises

and fill other priorities and still come up with a \$65,000 increase in athletics funding "that's fine."

It's likely a study will be done to look at how the university funds the athletics department.

Regents also agreed that a \$1.8 million operational plan that meets broad goals would be phased in over a three-year period and that an increase in student fees may be considered to make up any deficits.

Student Regent Kristen Miller said she wants to make sure that the board doesn't use an increase in student fees as a panacea.

Meredith said the fee increase may be necessary because "I don't know how much reallocation can continue to do."

"We weren't fat to start with," he said. "Sooner or later we're going to have to put new money in the pot."

Charles Anderson, vice president of information and technology, said the fee increase could be used for technology improvements. The \$10 portion of student fees only pays about 40 percent of what it costs to run student computer labs and access points in residence halls, Anderson said.

In other action, regents:

- Approved creation of the position of associate vice president for academic affairs. The position will be responsible for student recruitment and retention.

- Named a residence hall after former President Donald Zacharias. Coed Hall will be dedicated as Zacharias Hall this spring.

Zacharias, who was Western's president from 1979 to 1985, is the president of Mississippi State University.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1997

# Regents raise student fees, change food service operator

By the Daily News

Western Kentucky University students in the fall will pay higher fees in exchange for more campus computers and will have a bigger choice at mealtime.

The Board of Regents on Tuesday approved a preliminary budget that included a \$25 per semester increase in student fees to pay for new technology. The board wants a student survey completed before deciding how many and what kind of computers to purchase.

Students also will pay \$10 a semester more to live in residence halls. The current fees for on-campus housing vary.

The preliminary budget also includes \$2 million for an average 4 percent pay increase for faculty and staff members.

Regents also approved a five-year food service contract with Aramark.

Marriott Corp. had operated food services since 1992, but Western Vice President of Finance Jim Ramsey said Aramark's offer was much better than those made by Marriott and two other companies.

Aramark has agreed to renovate cafeterias in Downing University Center, but the university will contribute \$100,000 toward that project. The company also plans to extend service hours and add Chick-Fil-A, Freshens Yogurt, Starbucks Coffee and a salad bar in addition to existing name brands on campus.

Gary Meszaros, Western's director of business services, said the company also is trying to sign one of three national hamburger franchises.

Current food service employees will be guaranteed a 90-day trial period with matching wages and comparable benefits when Aramark takes over May 16. Western will receive 4 percent of sales and a sliding scale rent of \$220,000 a year that decreases as sales increase.

Meszaros said he hopes the changes will increase sales from \$3 million to \$4 million.

In other business, regents:

- Accepted a pledge of \$200,000 from Glasgow's Span Tech to the university's mechanical engineering and electromechanical engineering technology programs. Dr. John Russell, head of the engineering technology department, said interest from the endowment will be used for faculty development and for maintaining and upgrading equipment in the program.

- Approved a \$171 million, six-year capital projects plan that will be forwarded to the state. The plan's top priorities are a \$7.5 million center for instruction technology and an \$8 million journalism building.

Regents questioned why construction projects would be listed before deferred maintenance. Ramsey said there likely would be two pots of money from the state — one

## Forum is Thursday on higher ed reform

By the Daily News

Gov. Paul Patton's higher education reform plan and the special legislative session that begins May 12 will be the topics of a public forum Thursday at the Warren County Courthouse.

The forum begins at 10 a.m.

The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce's Governmental Affairs Committee will sponsor the forum. Guests will include House Speaker Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green; state Sen. Nick Kafoglis, D-Bowling Green; state Rep. Roger Thomas, D-Smiths Grove; and state Rep. Rob Wilkey, D-Franklin.

for new construction and the other for maintenance.

- Agreed to purchase property at University Boulevard and U.S. 31-W By-Pass for \$55,000.

- Agreed to spend \$400,000 for bookstore renovations. The money will come from bookstore revenues.

- Named history Professor Gary Dillard and biology Professor Robert Hoyt as distinguished professors. Each will receive an annual \$2,000 stipend and \$1,000 for travel.

The next board meeting will be June 5.

# WKU meeting may have been illegal

## ■ Regents also appoint Burch as interim president during meeting

By ROBYN L. MINOR

*The Daily News*

A behind-closed-doors session during a Western Kentucky University Board of Regents meeting Tuesday was illegal, according to a Kentucky Press Association attorney.

After going into closed session for a legitimate purpose under open-meeting laws — to discuss a personnel matter — regents also discussed the possible hiring of a consultant that would review all aspects of the university, board Chairwoman Peggy Loafman said.

The review could cost the university \$55,000.

Loafman said regents did not discuss the potential review in closed session until the university's attorney, Deborah Wilkins, said that topic could be discussed.

"That is clearly not legal. There is no exemption for discussion of institutional matters" in closed session, said Jon Fleischaker, a KPA attorney and an expert on Kentucky's open-meetings law.

The Daily News registered a for-



- WKU celebrates presidents
- University regents raise student fees, change food service operator

See stories, Page 12-A

mal protest with Loafman, citing open-meetings laws. The newspaper plans to pursue the matter with Wilkins and the state attorney general if necessary.

Loafman said she thought regents could discuss the issue because their conversation included details about a specific company.

"That's so silly it's laughable," Fleischaker said. "It's obvious they are playing games."

University President Thomas Meredith, when asked about the issue, replied: "I don't know. That wasn't my discussion."

On the topic of personnel matters, regents after the closed meeting named academic affairs Vice President Barbara Burch as interim president. Meredith is leaving Western to become chancellor of the University of Alabama system.

Earlier Tuesday, regents heard a presentation from James L. Fisher, an expert on institutional review. He said universities should evaluate everything about themselves when

going through a presidential search.

He recommended looking at entrance requirements, graduation requirements and other aspects of the university. Fisher also noted that the top quality of a good leader would be charisma.

Regent Howard Gray, who invited Fisher to the meeting, said his ideas were "refreshing." Regent Cornelius Martin said Fisher's comments were interesting and that the board would discuss them at a later meeting.

Tuesday's closed session followed a questionable closed session last week during a meeting of the regents' finance committee. The committee had the closed session to review proposals from bidders on a food-service contract.

Committee Chairman Burns Mercer said at the time that no decision was reached during the closed session, which would have made the gathering illegal under open-meetings laws, but that he would convey the sense of the meeting to the full Board of Regents.

On Tuesday, Mercer recommended that the full board approve a contract with Aramark. There was no discussion before the board's unanimous vote.

"It's clear a decision was reached (during the committee's closed session)," Fleischaker said.

## Our view

Where we stand on the issues making news in our world today:

# Flirting with law risky

### Topic:

The Western Kentucky Board of Regents illegally discussed a universitywide review in a closed session to discuss personnel.

### Where we stand:

*The university should not jeopardize its chance to start anew among many positive initiatives by disregarding the opening meetings law.*

Why the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents would risk legal reproof to discuss something as auspicious as a universitywide review defies our understanding.

But this is what the regents did Tuesday, adding to a string of recent university sessions that suggest something short of enthusiasm for Kentucky's Open Meetings Act.

This law, intended to protect the public's right to know about government proceedings, allows plenty of latitude to discuss specified items outside the public's hearing. In fact, it permits too much public business to be conducted in private.

But the law does not empower officials to go into private session with the announced intention of discussing one matter and then discussing another.

This is what the regents did when they went behind closed doors to talk about a personnel matter — permitted under the law — and, once inside the private session, also decided to discuss the possibility of hiring a consultant to conduct a university-wide study. The latter discussion, of itself, may well constitute a second infraction of the law, since institutional matters are not among the few topics that may be discussed in private.

To their credit, regents were quick to acknowledge the closed-door session was in error. The board should not have discussed the possible review during executive session, board Chairwoman Peggy Loafman said Thursday.

She said the board will correct itself during a June 5 meeting.

What makes this situation so puzzling is the question of why the regents would even want to discuss hiring a consultant while out of public earshot. Who can take offense with an official desire to make Western Kentucky University the best university possible and, if necessary, to employ a consultant to do it?

Other recent initiatives by the regents have been equally praiseworthy.

An agreement to appoint academic affairs Vice President Barbara Burch as interim president, given the impending departure of Dr. Thomas Meredith for the chancellorship of the University of Alabama, is a perceptive move that encourages the relaxed selection of a new chief officer.

Implementing a regent committee's recommendation that more conservative contractual terms be offered the next president would be within the regents' authority and could enhance the president's personal standing among faculty.

All of these initiatives are evidence that regents are motivated by an insightful desire to propel Western into a promising future.

A more disquieting aspect to this picture is the regents' willingness to flirt with infraction of a state law that protects the public's right to know what the regents are doing and why.

Regent Howard Gray, with a completely different matter in mind, said of the contractual relationship he hopes to see established with the next Western president, "We have a tremendous opportunity to start off new."

We suppose this is a way of saying that in a contract, the devil is in the detail.

The same holds true when government boards conduct their meetings.

PCDN  
May 2/97



Daily News May 2, 1997

# WKU regents debate need for expansion

By ROBYN L. MINOR  
*The Daily News*

Western Kentucky University leaders are butting heads in a debate whether the university should expand its boundaries or maintain and repair what it already owns.

The school's Board of Regents in a 6-5 vote this week purchased a small parcel of land at U.S. 31-W By-Pass and University Boulevard for \$55,000. The property likely will be used for a university entrance sign similar to one across the boulevard.

Regent Ray Mendel, who voted in the minority, said the purchase is "focusing on the facade" of Western and not directing attention to issues that affect students, such as the problem of getting and keeping them in university housing.

"We need only visit the dorms to see why students don't stay," he said.

But Regent Cornelius Martin said the university should look at the purchase as an investment, and Regent Earl Fischer said timing is everything when buying property.

Mendel, however, said he fears the property purchase could cost the university even more than \$55,000. The overgrown lot now has a small vacant house on it that would have to be demolished or moved so the

property could be used, he said, and some older houses contain asbestos as an insulating material.

"It's not such a bargain," Mendel said.

Regent Howard Gray said private donors should be sought to pay for the property, and student Regent Kristen Miller said the money could be better spent at the university's current facilities.

Staff Regent Joy Gramling urged regents to evaluate conditions on the current campus and on rental properties the university purchased earlier this year before making any other decisions on expansion.

A six-year university capital improvements plan lists millions of dollars in deferred maintenance or improvement projects for existing properties, such as new roofs, new heating and cooling systems, window replacements and other items.

Western currently owns off-campus properties on Nashville Road, State Street, Campbell Lane, Cave Mill Road, Shanty Hollow Lake and College Street, according to the most recent list of tax-exempt properties in the county.

Those properties that include the Institute for Economic Development, the school farm and intramural recreation fields are valued at about \$9.7 million.

# WKU says its closed-door meeting illegal

Daily News

May 2, 1997

■ Chairwoman says board will correct error in June

By the Daily News

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents should not have discussed a possible review of the university during a closed session, board Chairwoman Peggy Loafman said Thursday.

She said the board will correct itself during its June 5 meeting.

The board went into closed session Tuesday to consider the hiring of an interim president, which is allowed under Kentucky's open-meetings law. While in that session, however, the board also talked about conducting a review of the university.

The open-meetings law outlines specific reasons, such as pending litigation or specific personnel matters, for which a public board can call a closed session. The board's conversation about a possible university review does not fall under that law and should have been conducted in open session, according to Jon Fleischaker, a Kentucky Press Association attorney and an expert on the open-meetings law.

After returning from the closed session, the board gave its executive committee authority to award a contract to a firm if it decided that was the best avenue for the university review.

M Regents debate the  
O need for expansion of  
R campus boundaries.  
E

Story, Page 7A

The Daily News and the university's newspaper, the College Heights Herald, immediately protested the closed session.

University attorney Deborah Wilkins in a letter to the Daily News said she was "comfortable that the discussion was conducted in the good faith belief that it complied with Kentucky law."

She wrote that because the board had gone into closed sessions before to discuss proposals for the university's food service and the hiring of a consultant for the presidential search, it could do the same in this instance. The difference, however, is that there were no proposals to evaluate this time.

"The board's assumption regarding the applicability of the Model Procurement Code (which allows for closed session) was an erroneous one but was not an unreasonable assumption considering their understanding of the law as it regarded two previous discussions surrounding an 'award of contract,'" she said.

Wilkins said the executive committee will take no action until another motion is made in open session and a vote is taken.

DAILY NEWS, BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 1997

REGION/STATE

A. story Friday about Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents incorrectly attributed some information to University Attorney Deborah Wilkins.

The board improperly discussed an issue during a closed session. The story should have said the board

thought it had made the right decision in discussing the topic in closed session.

Wilkins was not present during that portion of the meeting and did not advise the board on what it could or could not discuss.

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 1997

## WKU regents held illegal closed session

By ROBYN L. MINOR

*The Daily News*

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents incorrectly barred the public from a discussion about a presidential search committee, according to a ruling from the state attorney general's office.

The Thursday decision came after the campus newspaper, College Heights Herald, challenged the board's decision to close part of a Feb. 24 meeting in which regents discussed forming a search committee. The board appointed a search committee after that closed session.

See REGENTS, Page 2

## REGENTS

From Page One

The university's response to the Herald appeal cited a state statute that allows meetings to be closed for "discussion or hearings which might lead to the appointment, discipline or dismissal of an individual employee, member, or student without restricting that employee's, member's, or student's right to a public hearing if requested."

Assistant Attorney General Thomas Emerson wrote that Western's board "misconstrued the statutory exception and expanded its application to a situation not intend-

ed to be exempted."

Western may appeal the decision to circuit court within 30 days.

In April, the board met in closed session to discuss the need for a consultant. After the Daily News and College Heights Herald protested, University Attorney Deborah Wilkins said the board made an "erroneous assumption" that its discussion was permissible in closed session.

The board will reconsider the issue at its June meeting.

# WKU planning to 'change directions'

## Regents OK construction needs

By ROBYN L. MINOR  
The Daily News

Western Kentucky University Board of Regents juggled priorities with political desires Thursday to come up with a \$160 million construction-needs list for 1998-2000.

Major new construction projects and a face-lift of Western's extended campus in Glasgow have been placed ahead of millions of dollars in deferred maintenance projects, a prospect that prompted questions.

"This university is getting ready to change directions," Regent Earl Fischer said, and asked whether regents had reviewed priorities in

light of higher education reform that was signed into law May 30.

Western Vice President for Finance Jim Ramsey, who also is state budget director, said construction of an \$8 million center for instructional technology and an \$8 million journalism building would be "very consistent with the intent" of the reform, which identifies and rewards programs of distinction.

"There is no question that journalism facilities are inadequate. ... And we've already identified journalism as an outstanding program," Interim President Barbara Burch said.

Ramsey said the center for technology "would tie in very nicely with the virtual university" that was

See WKU, 2A

## WKU

From Page One

part of the reform. Universities across the state will use videoconferencing and computer links for long-distance learning.

Of the Glasgow campus renovation, Ramsey said legislators have indicated a "strong likelihood" that the project would be funded in 1998. Regent Kristen Bale of Glasgow and others from that city recently spoke with Gov. Paul Patton about the project, which would cost \$4 million to \$5.5 million.

Bale said there is strong community support for the project. Ramsey said the governor has not guaranteed funding but will support the project as much as he can.

Western's priority list originally put the Glasgow project at No. 41, but regents moved it to No. 5 on Thursday after learning of its political support.

Other top-10 projects — ones likely to receive the most consideration for state funding — include:

- Fire alarm improvements, \$475,000.
- Replacement of some primary electrical service systems, \$1.5 million.
- Other deferred electrical maintenance projects, \$762,500.
- Window replacement in Cherry Hall, \$633,000.
- Replacement of the Academic Complex roof, \$400,000.
- Various roof repairs and maintenance projects, \$756,000.
- Deferred plumbing maintenance projects, \$541,800.

In other financial matters, regents approved a \$130 million budget with little discussion.

Highlights of the budget,

increased by \$5 million from 1996-97, include an average merit increase of 4 percent for all full-time employees hired by Jan. 1; a \$25 increase in student technology fees that will generate an extra \$600,000 a year; a \$97,000 expenditure to begin a women's swimming program; a \$1.3 million increase in state funding; and a \$2.3 million revenue increase from tuition and student fees.

Regents also voted for the second time to authorize its executive committee to hire a consultant to review all aspects of the university. The board had the same vote in April, but it was after discussing the prospect in closed session — an action that violated the state's open meetings laws.

After a protest from the Daily News, University Attorney Deborah Wilkins told regents that they needed to take another vote, following a discussion in public.

"The six most important words are 'I know I made a mistake.' Well, 'We know we made a mistake,'" Regent Howard Gray said, adding that board members are correcting it.

Gray said it's important for regents to start the review before hiring a new president, so it is "not framed by a president." But Fischer and Regent Cornelius Martin said the new president also should confer with the consultant.

Without saying whether a president will have a role in the review, regents voted for the executive committee to advertise for bids and then take appropriate action in hiring a consultant.

# WKU regents appeal opinion on meeting

At issue is meeting  
closed to discuss  
a search committee

Associated Press

CS 6/28/97

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — The board of regents of Western Kentucky University is challenging an attorney general's opinion that said it violated Kentucky's open-meetings law.

The board filed a lawsuit in Warren Circuit Court against the university's

student newspaper — the College Heights Herald — in which the board appealed the attorney general's May 15 decision that said the board inappropriately closed a portion of its Feb. 24 meeting.

The student newspaper had sought the opinion because regents discussed potential appointees to a presidential-search committee while in closed session. Attorney general's opinions are legally binding in cases involving open meetings, and can be appealed.

The board contends it could close the meeting to discuss personnel matters that might lead to the appoint-

ment, discipline or dismissal of an individual employee.

But the attorney general ruled that the board was not appointing a university employee or discussing disciplinary matters — exceptions to the open meetings law — thus the session should not have been closed.

The regents' lawsuit disagrees.

If the attorney general's reasoning prevails, public agencies would not be able to form committees "with adequate representation of all constituencies from the surrounding communities," the suit said.

"Without certain protections, indi-

viduals who would not be subject to the exceptions, based on the attorney general's technical analysis, would undoubtedly withdraw from consideration for positions on these committees."

Bob Adams, a faculty adviser to the Herald, said the regents' discussions should have been in public. "It was not the kind of personnel matter that is to be protected," he said.

The board, in its lawsuit, asks that the attorney general's decision be reversed and that it recoup attorney fees and "any other relief" to which it is entitled.

# WKU regents want review of athletics

DN  
7/29/97

**■ Interim president saw such a need during recent coaching search**

By ROBYN L. MINOR  
*The Daily News*

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents on Monday decided to review the school's athletics programs.

Interim President Barbara Burch said she saw a need for such a review during the search to replace Paul Sanderford, the university's long-time women's basketball coach who resigned to become head coach at the University of Nebraska.

Burch said the review will look at funding, athletics' relationship to academics and its value to the university. A private firm will be hired to conduct the review.

"We welcome review ... that is, provided it's not prejudiced from the start," football coach Jack Harbaugh said.

Harbaugh's program was nearly eliminated in the early 1990s because of funding concerns, but the idea of an athletics review was first suggested in 1996 when regents approved a student athletic fee to pay for new women's sports to come into compliance with Title IX.

Athletics Associate Director Pam Herriford said the school has a schedule to get those women's teams

in place — swimming is the first to have competition this fall — but said a review might show that Western cannot participate at the level it wants.

"I would venture to say that we are not funded at the same level" as many other schools the university competes against, Herriford said.

But Herriford said she also realizes that athletics is secondary to the university's role in academics.

Harbaugh said, though, that athletics have a value for academics.

"It's our goal to graduate every player," he said.

And for many team members, the athletic scholarship is the only way for them to attend college, he said. Team members' family and friends also often follow them to school, and the team has 21 walk-on players paying full tuition.

"I think that has tremendous value," Harbaugh said.

"One of the mistakes that we all make is asking if your program will be self-supporting. I know the women's (basketball) team isn't and I don't think the men's team is," he said. "Everybody depends on some support. So the thing we have to do is to ask if the money we are giving those programs is well spent."

Sports teams, he said, also have a value to alumni, who are contributors to the university, and provide community entertainment.

Inside

•Regents OK transfer of rental property.  
•WKU lures research center.

Page 5A

# WKU paper seeks suit dismissal

By the Daily News

Western Kentucky University's student newspaper, which was sued by the school's board of regents after the paper won a favorable ruling on a challenge to a closed-door meeting, is asking the court to dismiss the regents' legal action.

The state attorney general's office sided with the College Heights Herald, which claimed Western's board of regents violated state laws on open meetings when it closed a portion of a Feb. 24 meeting. Although opinions on open meetings matter have the full weight of law, they may be challenged through circuit

*Although opinions  
on open meetings  
matter have the full  
weight of law, they  
may be challenged  
through circuit court  
action*

court action.

That's what regents have done, disputing the May 15 ruling.

The board, which discussed the

makeup of a presidential search committee, contends it could close the meeting to discuss personnel matters that might lead to the appointment, discipline or dismissal of an individual employee.

The attorney general said that was an improper interpretation of the law's exception clause, but the board said the ruling would thwart the ability of public agencies to form committees with adequate and varied representation.

The Herald has asked that the appeal be dismissed and that the attorney general's opinion be upheld.



## Western takes step toward major review

By the Daily News

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents this month will select a consulting firm to review all aspects of the university.

The board's executive committee on Wednesday voted to seek proposals from firms to evaluate the strengths, limitations and aspirations in 11 areas: general condition; academic and athletic programs; faculty; students; administration; budget and finance; senior officers; private support and outside grants; public relations, including legislative relations; governance, both board and campus; and other issues of relevance.

Firms have until 3:30 p.m. July 17 to submit proposals. The study is expected to cost \$20,000 to \$60,000.

The decision came after Regent Fred Mudge suggested that the review be conducted by a new president — leaving Barbara Burch as interim president while the review was conducted.

But Regent Howard Gray, who first posed the idea of an institutional review several months ago, was insistent on getting a company to conduct the review.

*Daily News*

July 3, 1997

# Regents fire back at state opinion

■ Student paper  
had successfully  
taken on session  
closed to public

By ROBYN L. MINOR  
*The Daily News*

Western Kentucky University's governing body is challenging an attorney general's opinion that said it violated Kentucky's open-meetings law.

The board filed a lawsuit in Warren Circuit Court against the university's student newspaper — the College Heights Herald — in which it appealed the attorney general office's May 15 decision that said the university's Board of Regents inappropriately closed a portion of its Feb. 24 meeting.

The student newspaper had sought the opinion — which has the full weight of law but can be challenged in court — on the basis regents discussed potential appointees to a presidential-search committee while in closed session.

The board contends it could close the meeting to discuss personnel matters that might lead to the appointment, discipline or dismissal of an individual employee.

The attorney general ruled that the board was not appointing a university employee such as a president or discussing disciplinary matters and "misconstrued the statutory exception" that would have allowed a closed session to take place.

The regents' lawsuit, which was filed by attorney Jeffrey S. Stein, contends the attorney general "misconstrued the wrong statute."

"The attorney general has con-

See REGENTS, Page 2

## REGENTS

From Page One

strued the exceptions in such a manner as to thwart the ability of public agencies to form committees with adequate representation of all constituencies from the surrounding communities," the suit said.

"Without certain protections, individuals who would not be subject to the exceptions, based on the attorney general's technical analysis, would undoubtedly withdraw from consideration for positions on these committees."

Bob Adams, a faculty adviser to the Herald, maintained that the regents' discussions should have been in public.

"It was not the kind of personnel matter that is to be protected," he said.

"I think what really needs to happen is there should be some kind of

seminar for all boards of regents about the state open-meetings and records laws," Adams said. "All of these people come from private enterprise. They are good people, but their method of operation is completely different from a public agency."

It is difficult for many board members to separate private from public interests, he said.

"I don't think there was any evil intent," Adams said.

The board, in its lawsuit, asks that the attorney general's decision be reversed that it recoup attorney fees and "any other relief" to which it is entitled.

"I guess the relief would be for no one to cover their meetings," Adams said.

June 27, 1997

DAILY NEWS JUNE 27, 1997

## Firm will investigate importance of sports at Western Kentucky

Associated Press

7/30/97  
BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents voted Monday to conduct a full review of the school's athletic program.

Interim President Barbara Burch said the need for a review became evident during the school's search for a replacement for longtime women's basketball coach Paul Sanderford, who resigned earlier this spring to coach at Nebraska.

Burch said the review, which will be conducted by a private firm, will look at funding for athletics, the program's relationship to academics and athletics' value to the university.

"We welcome review ... provided it's not prejudiced from the start," football coach Jack Harbaugh said.

Western's football program was nearly eliminated in the early 1990s because of funding concerns.

Harbaugh said athletics benefit to the school. For many students, he said, athletic scholarships are the only way they can attend college. And players' relatives, friends and fans often follow them to school, making athletics an important student-recruitment tool and an important way to retain alumni support, he added.

"One of the mistakes that we all make is asking if your program will be self-supporting," he said. "I know the women's (basketball) team isn't, and I don't think the men's team is. Everybody depends on some support. So the thing we have to do is to ask if the money we are giving those programs is well spent."

## REGION/STATE

# Six for Western among regents nominations

FRANKFORT (AP) — Most of the university governing board members whose terms expire this year were nominated for further service in lists forwarded by the postsecondary education nominating commission.

Gov. Paul Patton will make the appointments, probably in mid-August after the candidates are interviewed, according to his office.

Three vacancies will occur on three of the boards and two vacancies on the other five. Incumbent members are designated with an "I." The number in parentheses indicates the number of appointments to be made.

The nominees and their home

counties are:

Western Kentucky University (2) — Jennee Garrett, Barren; Lois Gray, Hardin; Sara Hulse, Daviess; Theodore Lavit, Marion; Anne Padgett, Daviess; William Stone, Jefferson.

Eastern Kentucky University (2) — (I) Jane Boyer, Jefferson; (I) Harold Campbell, Owsley; Clay Davis, Pulaski; Mary Giltner, Kenton; Ernest House, Laurel; Sheila Parkey, Pulaski.

Kentucky State University (2) — John Begley, Barren; Mae Cleveland, Fayette; James Dunn, Mercer; Stephanie Kirtley, Shelby; Nancy Lovett, Calloway; Brenda Schissler, Oldham.

Morehead State University (2)

— (I) Lois Baker, Letcher; Robert Hess, Jefferson; John Merchant, out-of-state; Juanita Mills, Kenton; (I) Charles Rhodes, Boyd; Joan Small, Martin.

Murray State University (3) — Olivia Burr, McCracken; Michael Cherry, Caldwell; (I) Beverly Ford, Marshall; (I) Arlivia Campbell, Christian; Dennis Jackson, McCracken; James Kevil, Caldwell; Martha Lewis, Marshall; Elizabeth McCoy, Graves; John Waters, Graves.

Northern Kentucky University (2) — (I) Robin Crigler, Boone; (I) Frank Downing, Owen; Kimberly Greene, Jefferson; Katherine Hendrickson, Mason; Robert

Matthews, Shelby; George Wilson, Franklin.

University of Louisville (3) — (I) Marie Abrams, Jefferson; Virginia Burbank, Jefferson; JoAnn Duncan, Martin; Donna Hall, Greenup; Donna Kane, Jefferson; (I) Jessica Loving, Jefferson; Sandy Metts-Snowden, Jefferson; Mackey McNeill, Kenton; Ann Sheffer, Daviess.

University of Kentucky (3) — Elizabeth Alexander, Daviess; (I) Paul Chellgren, Greenup; Wanda Collins, Shelby; Hilma Prather, Pulaski; Gail Strange, Jefferson; Grady Stumbo, Knott; Lawson Walker, Kenton; JoEtta Wickliffe, Mercer; Sandra Wood, McLean.

## WKU's newest regents are sworn in

By the Daily News *Aug 25, 1997*

Three new regents will help select Western Kentucky University's next president.

Hardin County schools Superintendent Lois Gray and Owensboro businesswoman Sara Hulse were sworn in before the first meeting this week with presidential finalists.

Student Regent Keith Coffman of Russellville joined the board in July.

The Board of Regents today will interview Western Vice President of Finance and Administration James

Ramsey, one of four finalists in the running to replace Thomas Meredith, who left Western's presidency to become chancellor of the University of Alabama system. The Board of Regents in coming days also will interview presidential finalists Gary Ransdell of Clemson, S.C., Edward Hammond of Hays, Kan., and Eugene Payne of Austin, Texas.

Regents narrowed the field of candidates from more than 80 applicants to four finalists before the new regents joined the board.

# WKU critique calls for change

■ Independent  
review says the  
university is  
'trapped in time'

By STEPHANIE BROADBENT  
The Daily News

Western Kentucky University is paralyzed by a combination of "nostalgia, ever-creeping bureaucracy and poor governance" and must make significant changes to become a leading university, according to an institutional review released today.

The report, which was drafted by a team of five consultants outside of the university, will be discussed today by Western's Board of Regents during a retreat in Falls of Rough.

Western President Gary Ransdell said the board took a bold step in requesting the review. He said he is confident the unbiased assessment will help the board and administrators plan for Western's future.

"I don't know of another document that has the potential to shape the future as this one does," he said.

The review lists 57 recommendations to transform Western from an institution "trapped in time" into Kentucky's leading university.

The document urges Ransdell, who became Western's president just four weeks ago, to take the lead role in the suggested changes, which range from increasing the number of regents while dropping faculty and student regents to becoming a more selective institution by creating tougher admission standards and smaller classes.

Ransdell said the board will discuss which recommendations are feasible and work toward planning some changes in coming weeks and months.

Among the recommendations are:

- Push for legislation that would increase the number of regents from 11 to 15 while excluding Western faculty and staff members and students from board membership. Also, eliminate a full-time secretary to the board or reassign that position to the office of the president.

- The president should immediately commission a task force on university governance that would report to the president by May and recommend a single university governance body that would give faculty members — and to a lesser degree — students a voice. All actions of the body would constitute recommendations to the president.

- "Western begs for procedural restoration and planning," the report says. Ransdell should begin strategic planning under his direct leadership that is highly visible, constituent-inclusive, reality-based and sharply focused with strict calendars for the process and its plans.

- Western should consider becoming the "premier" public institution of Kentucky by increasing admission standards, placing strong emphasis on small classes and superb faculty members, enhancing support services and pointing out that it "would not be an institution dedicated to generous or open access for most Kentuckians" and would not attempt to emulate the University of Kentucky.

- Under such a model, the report says those students who could not be admitted to Western would be enrolled in the community college and prove themselves before transferring to the university.

- The president should re-examine the university's general education program, which lacks specific requirements critical to a liberal education. A computer literacy requirement for all students and tougher foreign language requirements also are needed.

See WKU, 2A

502-781-1700 e-mail: dn

## ▲ WKU

From Page One

- Graduate programs that cannot generate at least five graduates a year, averaged over three years, should be candidates for elimination so that the money can be directed elsewhere. Among the programs that might fall into that category are industrial technology, consumer and family services, economics, professional accountancy, music and humanities.

- Students should evaluate every class during each semester, not only in the fall.

- Western should develop merit incentives to reward outstanding faculty members and encourage all to keep up with new developments. Overall faculty salaries are less than many of the university's competitors and should be addressed by the governor and General Assembly.

- Western should develop an early retirement, early exit program to replenish its aging faculty members with new blood. It also should adopt a policy that permits evaluation of tenured faculty members, have a remedy for those who fall

short and permit a suspension or termination of tenured faculty members who cannot improve.

- More support for scholarships outside the university should be generated.

- Maintenance of academic buildings and residence halls should be studied.

- Ransdell should address African-American students who feel that they are culturally and socially isolated, find out their concerns and, if necessary, take action.

- The number of people who report directly to the president should be reduced, and administrators should be evaluated regularly.

- Western's intercollegiate athletics programs likely will see even more financial stress than in 1997, which is the case at most institutions with multiple Division I-AA programs, the report says. Consideration should be given to changing athletic conferences, reducing budgets and eliminating programs.

- The three fund-raising foundations associated with the university should be combined.

# WKU president wants business to take bigger role at university

By STEPHANIE BROADBENT  
*The Daily News Jan 28, 1998*

Business leaders soon might have a bigger hand in shaping Western Kentucky University's future.

When Western's Board of Regents meets Friday, President Gary Ransdell will ask members to endorse a Board of Visitors, he said. The new board would include Kentucky and out-of-state business leaders who could help the university set goals and track its progress.

As the university ushers in a new year, such a board is unlikely to be the only change. After a year that included saying goodbye to a president and three board members,

regents will spend Friday concentrating on the future.

"Some momentum is beginning to build," said Ransdell, who was named Western's president after Dr. Thomas Meredith's departure last spring. "I feel good about the direction I believe we're heading."

The agenda for the 9 a.m. board meeting at Wetherby Administration Building includes items tied to Western's future:

- The board will discuss an upcoming athletics review and will discuss what has been done since an institutional review was released in the fall.

- Ransdell will discuss the impact that state funding for higher educa-

tion projects will have on the university.

Some recommendations in the institutional review have already sparked changes, Ransdell said. Other recommendations have been assigned to academic officers who will plan if, or when, changes will be made, he said.

The board also will hear about programs considered for programs of distinction. No more than three programs will be submitted this spring to the state Council on Post-secondary Education. Those programs could receive funding of up to \$1.4 million that would have to be matched by university or private funds.

# WKU athletics cuts are pondered

■ Regents will seek  
more information, also  
may up student fees

By JASON RILEY *Sept 28, 1998*  
*The Daily News*

Western Kentucky University is considering cutting some low-revenue athletic programs and increasing student fees, Western President Gary Ransdell said.

Board of Regents committees met Friday and decided that more information would have to be gathered before deciding whether to cut any sports programs.

"We will have to collect a lot of data and do an analysis of all the Sun Belt Conference schools and other peer institutions in this area of the country to see which sports are compatible," Ransdell said. "There are a lot of factors to take into consideration because of the significance of such a recommendation."

Regents plan to look at the revenues generated by each sport as well as the number of scholarships involved, among other factors, Ransdell said.

Ransdell also raised the possibility of raising student fees, which he said are consistently lower than most schools Western's size.

"I feel good that our fees are lower than most, but a little uncomfortable that they stay stagnant indefinitely," Ransdell said. "Some have been the same for the last 10 to 15 years."

He mentioned the possibility of having the fees increase at the same rate as tuition.

In other business:

•The Academics and Student Affairs Committee learned that a new housing policy has generated an extra \$500,000 for the university.

See WKU, 2A

## ▲ WKU

From Page One

The Sophomore Housing Policy requires students to live on campus for four semesters, although the housing office can offer some exemptions.

The policy became effective last year and has increased the number of students living on campus by nearly 400, said Jerry Wilder, Western's vice president for student affairs.

The policy also has boosted students' participation in extracurricular, social and cultural events, Wilder said.

•In a move that is supposed to save money for Western faculty and staff members as well as the school, the full Board of Regents voted to make Western self-insured by Jan. 1.

With insurance premiums rising

every year, university Human Resources Director Tony Glisson said this was the only way to control these increases and save money for employees and the university.

"This should allow us some continuity, consistency and most importantly reduce cost in the long term," Glisson said.

The new plan will offer faculty and staff members five insurance plans from which to choose, Ransdell said. Starting next year, employees will pay premiums to the university, not the insurance company.

All money that is not used for medical treatment will be put in a reserve fund for excessive claims and to ensure future premiums don't skyrocket, Ransdell said.



## WKU president favors purchase of property on Adams Street

By the Daily News *Nov. 2, 1998* gift and purchase of properties at Western Kentucky University 1441 Kentucky St., 1445 Kentucky St., 1447 Kentucky St. and 1426 Adams St. at a July 31 board meeting. The university proposes to raze all buildings and begin construction on parking areas for the university and Kentucky Museum and Library.

This property was bequeathed to Potter Children's Home and is adjacent to other university-owned property. It was offered for sale to the university for \$28,000.

The board approved the partial

"That area is the largest eyesore in this end of Bowling Green. We would like to clean it up for parking and aesthetic purposes," Ransdell said.

Apr. 30, 1999

DAILY NEWS, BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

LOCAL/REGIONAL

# Journalism, broadcasting efforts at WKU will merge

By JASON RILEY  
*The Daily News*

Three Western Kentucky University Board of Regents committees voted Thursday to merge the journalism and broadcasting programs.

If given final approval from the full Board of Regents, the programs will merge into the School of Journalism and Broadcasting on July 1.

"Combining these two related program areas into a single administrative unit will build on the considerable existing strengths of each and allow them to reach even greater levels of achievement," President Gary Ransdell said. "We expect this ... will further enhance the national prominence of the programs in this area."

JoAnn Albers, head of the journalism department, will become director of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting.

The merger will address several concerns, including the lack of

accreditation for broadcasting, she said.

Journalism was reaccredited for six years in May 1998. Immediately after the merger is finalized, she said, the school will begin making needed changes to bring the broadcasting curriculum and operations under journalism's accreditation.

Another factor is a proposal to make the School of Journalism and Broadcasting a program of distinction under Kentucky's Higher Education Reform Act. The journalism and broadcasting programs will share space in the Instructional Technology and Communication Center that is scheduled to open in 2001.

"The big payoff is that communications employers today expect graduates to have multimedia skills," Albers said. "Students in both programs will benefit and we will be able to capitalize on the synergies of both departments."

In other business Thursday:

•Nick Kafoglis, a long-time Bowling Green physician and former state senator, and Joy Bale Boone of Glasgow, the Kentucky poet laureate, were awarded honorary degrees.

•The committees approved the purchase of property at 255 E. 14th Ave. for \$100,000. The property, which is adjacent to The Kentucky Museum, is surrounded by other university-owned property.

•The committees heard proposals for using \$4 million in new funds during the next fiscal year. The proposals include using nearly \$2.8 for recruiting and retaining faculty and staff members, nearly \$500,000 for implementing the strategic plan and \$72,000 for faculty computer replacements.

•The committees went into closed sessions to discuss possible litigation and possible contracts for the university's 2000-2001 audit. No action was taken.

# Western, city strike deal

■ For mutual aid, university and city will both benefit in land agreement

By JASON RILEY  
The Daily News

ELIZABETHTOWN — Western Kentucky University will give Bowling Green land for a new fire department substation in exchange for the city building an extension of 14th Street in order to ease campus traffic, Western President Gary Ransdell said Friday.

"The deal is we give them the deed to that property on the university farm if they build us the connector street on 14th," Ransdell said at a Board of Regents meeting. "It is a good deal in which both the city and Western win."

*"We knew this street extension was going to cost us so we just decided to swap out with the city, who wanted the land for a fire station."*

*PCDN  
6/22/99*

— Deborah Wilkins  
Western Kentucky University attorney

Western officials were recently approached by city officials about the purchase of more than one acre of land on the university farm located off Nashville Road in order to construct a new fire department substation, according to Western attorney Deborah Wilkins.

The university recently purchased property located on 14th Street, adjacent to campus, and has approached the city about extending 14th Street across this property, Wilkins said. That would help ease the flow of traffic around campus

and keep traffic off Big Red Way which would then be closed to through-traffic, she said.

"For us, it will eliminate some of the cut-through traffic on campus and just give people a straight shot," she said. "We knew this street extension was going to cost us so we just decided to swap out with the city, who wanted the land for a fire station."

In the agreement, the city has said it will improve, realign and extend 14th Street 50 feet from its current location to Kentucky Street.

The property proposed for the fire substation site has been appraised at \$100,000, equal to what it will cost the city to extend 14th Street, Wilkins said.

The Board of Regents approved the move Friday but the City Commission must vote on the action, she said.

In other business:

• Sara Hulse of Owensboro resigned from the Western Board of Regents.

"My lifestyle has changed so dramatically in recent months that I find myself unable to fulfill my responsibilities to the university," Hulse said in a letter of resignation to Gov. Paul Patton. "Serving on the board has been both an honor and a privilege. My fellow regents are unequalled in abilities and dedication; I will miss the opportunity to work with them."

Hulse was appointed to a six-year term in 1997. Patton will appoint a replacement.

• The board approved the 1999-2000 operating budget in which faculty members will receive an average 5-percent salary boost. The board also approved a 6-percent raise for President Ransdell.

Western will receive nearly \$4 million in new funds for the upcoming year. Proposals for the money include using nearly \$2.8 million for recruiting and retaining faculty and staff members, nearly \$600,000 for implementing the university's strategic plan and \$72,000 for faculty computer replacements.

• The board also approved merging the journalism and broadcasting programs and creating a School of Journalism and Broadcasting within the Potter College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

**Messenger Inquirer****5/22/99****1C****Hulse resigns  
from WKU board**

Sara L. Hulse of Owensboro has resigned from the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents, the university said in a news release Friday.

"My lifestyle has changed so dramatically in recent months that I find myself unable to fulfill my responsibilities to the university and to the state of Kentucky," Hulse was quoted as writing in a resignation letter to Gov. Paul Patton.

Hulse, appointed to a six-year term in 1997, could not be reached for further comment Friday.

Patton will appoint a replacement to finish Hulse's unexpired term.

# Patton replaces 9 on college boards

By AL CROSS  
C-J Political Writer

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Gov. Paul Patton yesterday replaced nine members of higher-education boards whose terms had expired Wednesday, including two University of Kentucky trustees.

Patton said the appointments mean that the board of every state university except UK now has an equal number of men and women. The 20-member UK board still has only five women, even with the appointments yesterday of Northern Kentucky businesswoman Alice Sparks and Elaine Wilson of Somerset.

Wilson, a Lexington native and UK graduate, is the social work supervisor at the Oakwood state hospital. Patton's office said she is only the second African-American woman to serve on the board at UK.

Sparks, of Crescent Springs, is a longtime education activist and Northern Kentucky University regent whose reputation was tarnished by her financing of an entertainment business for former legislative aide Kent Downey, who pleaded guilty to promoting prostitution and illegal gambling. Sparks, who gave Patton's state Democratic Party \$1,250 last year, has said she had no knowledge of those illegal activities.

Wilson and Sparks succeed Martin Welenken of Prospect and James Hardyman of Lexington, both of whom supported a controversial contract extension for UK President Charles Wethington. Hardyman was one of the trustees closest to Wethington, who opposed Patton's 1997 removal of community colleges from UK's control.

After the board voted in May to extend Wethington's contract, Hardyman gave the Democratic Party \$2,500. But the Higher Education Nominating Committee, which Patton

appoints, nominated only women for the seats held by Welenken and Hardyman.

Meanwhile, faculty complained about the extension, and newspapers filed a lawsuit alleging that the board violated the state open-meetings law. This week, the board unanimously rescinded the extension but voted to let Wethington keep the 19 percent pay raise it had given him and stay on the payroll as a fund-raiser until 2003 after his contract as president expires in 2001.

The new University of Louisville trustee is Mary A. Yarmuth, a senior vice president of Caretenders Health Corp. of Louisville. She succeeds Stephen Lynn of Oklahoma. Milton Livingston of Paducah was reappointed. Livingston has given \$7,100 to Patton's political causes. Yarmuth has given \$1,500 and members of her family gave another \$6,500.

Patton's appointments also brought gender equality to the boards of regents at Morehead State University and Northern Kentucky University.

At Morehead, Sylvia Lovely of Lexington, executive director of the Kentucky League of Cities, replaced James Finch of Mays Lick.

At Northern, Betty Maupin Pogue of Fort Thomas succeeded businessman William Verst of Highland Heights. Pogue is a civic volunteer and the wife of Henry Pogue, former chairman of the state Board of Education.

In other appointments to six-year terms, the governor renamed Glasgow bookkeeper Kristen Bale to the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents, and appointed:

■ Marshall County Judge-Executive Mike Miller, one of Patton's closest political allies, to replace Philip Lannier of Louisville as a Murray State University regent.

■ C. Fred Rice of Naples, Fla., a real estate executive, to replace Dr. William DeVries of Louisville as an Eastern Kentucky University regent. Rice gave the Democratic Party \$3,000 in 1996.

■ William G. Johnson to replace fellow Frankfort accountant George Helton as a Kentucky State University regent. Helton, Patton's campaign treasurer, has a part-time job on the state Board of Tax Appeals.

■ Bill Beasley of Paducah, who has given \$2,000 to Patton's causes, to replace Michael Hoseus of Lexington on the Kentucky Community and Technical College System board.

Courier-Journal

7/2/99

B3

## Glasgow Daily Times

7/2/99

Page 1

## Kristen Bale renamed to WKU Regents Board

A Glasgow resident has been reappointed to the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents.

Kristen T. Bale, was reappointed by Governor Paul Patton.

The governor made several appointments Thursday including two to the University of Kentucky.

The UK appointees were Elaine A. Wilson, who for 26 years has been director of social work services at the Oakwood mental-retardation center in Somerset, and Alice Sparks of Crescent Springs, who had been a regent of Northern Kentucky University.

Other appointees:

—Sylvia L. Lovely, Lexington, to the Morehead State University board of regents, replacing James A. Finch. Lovely is executive director of the Kentucky League of Cities. She is a graduate of Morehead State and the UK College of Law.

—Betty Maupin Pogue, Fort Thomas, to the Northern Kentucky University board, replacing William G. Verst. She is a volunteer and homemaker.

—Mary A. Yarmuth,

Louisville, to the University of Louisville board of trustees, replacing C. Stephen Lynn. She is a senior vice president of Caretenders Healthcorp. Patton reappointed Milton M. Livingston Jr., a Paducah attorney.

—C. Fred Rice, Naples, Fla., to the Eastern Kentucky University board of regents, replacing William DeVries. Rice is a real-estate executive, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees from EKV.

—William G. Johnson, Frankfort, to the Kentucky State University board of regents, replacing George H. Helton. Johnson is a certified public accountant and former treasurer of the Kentucky Democratic Party.

—Mike Miller, Benton, to the Murray State University board of regents, replacing Philip Lanier. Miller is Marshall County judge-executive and one of Patton's closest political allies.

—William E. Beasley, Paducah, to the Kentucky Community and Technical College System board of regents, replacing Michael Hoseus. Beasley is a business executive.

## Glasgow Daily Times

7/27/99

12

## WKU Regents will hold quarterly meeting at Glasgow campus

Announcement to be  
made about major gift  
for local campus

Western Kentucky University  
Board of Regents will meet in  
Glasgow on July 29 and 30 for a  
retreat and quarterly meeting.

The retreat begins at noon July  
29 at Barton River Lake Lodge  
and will adjourn at 4:30 p.m. It

resumes at 8:30 a.m. July 30 and  
is scheduled to conclude at 11  
a.m.

At 1:30 a.m. the board will  
meet at the Glasgow Country  
Club.

WKU President Gary Ransdell  
will announce a major gift that  
will affect the Glasgow campus.

The board will convene for its  
quarterly meeting at the WKU  
Glasgow Campus at 1:30 p.m.

# Regents eye tuition, dorm repairs

Several hot topics on agenda for meeting at Glasgow campus

By JASON RILEY July 29, 1999  
*The Daily News*

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents will meet today and Friday to discuss privatization, tuition rates and the possibility of refinancing on-campus dorms.

Three focus groups have been studying Western President Gary Ransdell's idea to use equity from some of the university's 18 resi-

dence halls to finance remodeling and new construction. This idea will be pitched to the board on Friday, Ransdell said.

Ransdell's plans include renovating most of the dorms and tearing down North, South, East and West halls to replace them with an on-campus apartment complex.

"Those four halls really do not lend themselves to renovation," he said. "We do not have any apartment-style housing, and that is what we want to create. We want to offer a full range of residential options for our students, and (upperclassmen)

generally prefer an apartment-style option."

In April, the state's universities won approval from the Council on Postsecondary Education to set their own tuition rates.

While tuition rates already have been set for the 1999-2000 school year, university regents and trustees must have tuition rates for the 2000-01 and 2001-02 school years submitted to the state by Sept. 1, Ransdell said.

Since Western privatized its food services industry and maintenance workers, ongoing discussions about

the possibility of privatizing other university services – including the student health service – has been a hot topic and will be discussed Friday.

The Board of Regents started a retreat at noon today at Barren River Lake State Resort Park Lodge. The group will have lunch at 11:30 a.m. Friday at Glasgow Country Club with the board meeting at 1:30 p.m. Friday at Western's Glasgow campus library.

Ransdell also plans to make a special gift announcement during the lunch.



# Regents pass dorm plan

By JASON RILEY  
The Daily News

GLASGOW - Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents on Friday approved a \$50 million recapitalization plan to use equity from some of the university's 18 residence halls to finance remodeling and new construction.

The board approved the creation of the WKU Student Life Foundation Inc., a non-profit corporation, which will sell \$51,500,000 in tax-exempt revenue bonds in order to pay off \$21 million in existing debt, renovate most dormitories and replace four others with an apartment complex.

Western will transfer all but one of its residence halls to the Student Life Foundation, but will still remain in control over the dorms, Western President Gary Ransdell said.

"This is about making campus a desirable place to live, not just a place to attend classes," he said. "We are turning a difficult recruiting circumstance into a recruiting advantage. Our alternative is to sit back and be content with an unfortunate circumstance - the degeneration of our dorms - and that is not an option."

Western officials hope to have

proceeds from the bonds by October and finish renovations within the next three years.

"This is one of the most innovative ideas I have ever seen," said regent Earl Fischer. "It is just a monumental project and I am in awe."

Other board members agreed and passed the plan unanimously.

"I am very excited about this project," said Cornelius Martin, who was elected chair of the Board of Regents for another year at Friday's meeting in Glasgow. "It is a very complex project and if we can pull it off, it is something the rest of higher education will look very closely at."

Plans for renovations to the dorms include two- and four-bedroom suites, private baths, movable furniture and an apartment complex where North, South, East and West halls currently sit, according to Brian Kuster, director of Western's Department of Housing and Residence Life.

The deeds to the dorms will be signed over to the foundation after the bonds are sold sometime in the next three months. Renovations and construction will begin by 2001, Kuster said.

The process will not leave any

students without a place to live, he said.

"We won't tear down all four dorms at once, we will do that part in phases," he said. "Also, we have a capacity of 5,300 occupants and are currently housing only 4,400, so there are a lot of beds out there. We might have to reduce the number of private rooms for a period of time, but everyone will have a place to sleep."

Since the dorms will no longer be under state control, Western will have less restrictions on how the dorms and the apartment complex can be run, according to Deborah Wilkins, Western's general counsel.

While the dorms will most likely have the same rules and regulations as they do now, the on-campus apartment complex - which will most likely be for upperclassmen and honor students - could be more like an off-campus residence, she said.

"It has been discussed that the (apartments) may have different guidelines," she said. "Those have not been decided yet but I would imagine if you want to have four TVs and a six pack of beer in your fridge, that would probably be okay."

Glasgow Daily Times

8/1/99

9



Western Kentucky University Board of Regents met Friday on the Glasgow Campus. From left to right, back row: Robert Earl Fischer of Owensboro, Amanda Coates of Brownsville, Peggy W. Loafman of Bowling Green, Lois Gray of Elizabethtown, James

B. Tennill, Jr., of Louisville, and Ronald G. Sheffer of Louisville; front row - Joy Gramling of Scottsville, Kristen T. Dale, Vice Chair, of Glasgow, Cornelius A. Martin, Chair, of Bowling Green, and Gary A. Ransdell, President of the University.

Times photo by Tammy Hensley

## Nominations accepted for education posts

By the Daily News 10-29-99

The state is accepting nominations for several postsecondary education board positions.

Two Higher Education Assistance Authority positions and three Council on Postsecondary Education positions will expire in December.

The boards of regents at Western Kentucky University, Eastern Kentucky University and Kentucky

Community Technical College System each have one opening; Northern Kentucky University's board has two.

Applications received by noon Nov. 22 will be submitted to the Postsecondary Education Nominating Committee at its Dec. 1 meeting.

For information and conflict-of-interest forms, contact Bill Beam Jr., boards and commissions director in the governor's office.

## Messenger-Inquirer

12/23/99

3B

# Owen chosen for education board

## Owensboro woman joins WKU board

Associated Press

FRANKFORT — Charlie Owen, the Louisville millionaire businessman who has lost two elections but maintains his political aspirations, was appointed Wednesday to the policymaking board for Kentucky higher education.

Gov. Paul Patton appointed Owen to the Council on Postsecondary Education for a term that will run until Dec. 2005.

Owen replaces Louisville banker Leonard Hardin, a former chairman of the council who helped shepherd changes in higher education governance through a contentious 1997 General Assembly special session. Hardin's term had expired.

Owen lost a Democratic primary

campaign for the 3rd District seat in Congress and another primary in 1998 for the U.S. Senate. In the Senate race, Owen lost to former U.S. Rep. Scotty Baesler, but finished ahead of Lt. Gov. Steve Henry.

Patton also appointed Republican activist Hilda Gay Legg of Somerset and Joan Taylor, who works on his governor's office staff, to the council.

Legg replaces Marcia Ridings of Somerset, whose term expired; Taylor replaces Marlene Helm of Nicholasville, who is secretary of the Education and Humanities Cabinet.

Patton also made the following higher education appointments:

■ Beverly Harper Wathen of Owensboro to the Western Kentucky University board of regents to replace Sara Lyle Hulse, also of Owensboro, who resigned.

■ Gary Abney of Richmond to the Eastern Kentucky University

board of regents to replace Marvin Russow, also of Richmond, who had resigned.

■ Joyce Griffin of Elsmere to the Northern Kentucky University board of regents to replace Alice Sparks of Crescent Springs. Patton had appointed Sparks to the University of Kentucky board.

■ +□◆◆◆ Wilson of Williamstown to the Northern board to replace Mary Hasty of Louisville, who resigned.

**Courier-Journal****1/7/00****B3****BOWLING GREEN****Ex-teacher named  
regent at WKU**

Beverly Harper Wathen, a retired music teacher from Owensboro, has been named to Western Kentucky University's board of regents.

Wathen was appointed by Gov. Paul Patton to succeed Sara L. Hulse of Owensboro, who resigned last May. Wathen will join the board at its Jan. 28 meeting.

She is a 1958 Western Kentucky graduate.

## Glasgow Daily Times

1/9/2000

Page 7

## Wathen appointed to WKU Board of Regents

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. -- A retired music teacher from Owensboro has been named to Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents.

Beverly Harper Wathen, a 1958 Western graduate, was appointed by Gov. Paul Patton and will join the Board for its Jan. 28 meeting. "I'm looking forward to it very much," she said.

She replaces Sara L. Hulse of Owensboro, who resigned last May. "I know I'm going to be filling some mighty big shoes," Wathen said.

Wathen plans to spend the next few weeks becoming more familiar with the issues facing Western and the Board.

Improving the quality of education is vital, she said. Wathen, who also taught music in her home for many years, remains interested in how the arts play a role in educating well-rounded students.

She's also interested in Western's educational influence and role statewide and in Owensboro, where the University maintains an extended campus center. "The cooperation of the local colleges is extremely important to Western," Wathen said.

Wathen is a native of Columbia, Tenn. Her husband, Edward, is president of Whitehall Furniture in Owensboro.

## Messenger Inquirer

1/12/2000

2D

**Wathen joins WKU board**

A retired music teacher from Owensboro has been named to Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents, according to a news release from WKU.

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**Daily News****1/7/00****5A****New regent is former music teacher**

Gov. Paul Patton has appointed Beverly Harper Wathen, a retired music teacher from Owensboro, to the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents.

Wathen, a 1958 Western graduate, will replace Sara L. Hulse of Owensboro, who resigned in May.

Wathen's first meeting as a regent will be Jan. 28.



## Lexington Herald Leader

2/5/2000

C4

# WKU land at center of accusation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOWLING GREEN — An ex-regent at Western Kentucky University claims former President Thomas Meredith and General Counsel Deborah Wilkins illegally purchased a parcel of land, then misled the Board of Regents about it.

Meredith denied the allegations yesterday, saying the purchase was proper and legal and the governing board was fully informed.

Former regent Ray Mendel told the College Heights Herald, the campus newspaper, that Meredith and Wilkins bought the land in 1997 before seeking the regents' required approval. The board voted 6-5 in favor of the deal at a meeting on April 29, 1997.

According to the meeting's minutes, the property, which is next to the school, was to be turned into green space and a sign identifying the university was to be erected on it.

*"Nothing illegal was done and the board fully understood the circumstances at the time."*

Thomas Meredith  
former WKU president

Nothing has been done with the property since it was purchased for \$55,000. A rented house still sits on it.

An open-records request by the Herald found that the purchase was settled between the university and the owners on March 26, 1997. The purchase requisition is dated March 31 of that year and the school's check is dated April 4.

"None of this was told to the board at the meeting," Mendel said. "I think there was a concerted effort to deceive the board."

"Nothing illegal was done and

the board fully understood the circumstances at the time," said Meredith from his office in Birmingham, Ala. He left Western Kentucky in 1997 after eight years as president to become chancellor of the University of Alabama system.

Fred Hensley, a Western Kentucky University spokesman, said Wilkins told him that the university and the property owners had gotten the paperwork in order with the understanding that if the board rejected the purchase, the deal was off.

Messages seeking comment from Wilkins were left at her office Thursday and yesterday.

Mendel, a psychology professor, served as the faculty's representative on the Board of Regents for more than six years before resigning from the board in 1998. He submitted his resignation from the faculty in November and plans to teach through the current semester.

# Former regent says WKU officials illegally purchased land

5 February 2000

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. -- An ex-regent at Western Kentucky University claims says former President Thomas Meredith and General Counsel Deborah Wilkins illegally purchased a parcel of land, then misled the Board of Regents about it.

Meredith denied the allegations Friday, saying the purchase was proper and legal and the governing board was fully informed.

Former regent Ray Mendel told the College Heights Herald, the campus newspaper, for a story this week that Meredith and Wilkins bought the land in 1997 before seeking the regents' required approval. The board voted 6-5 in favor of the deal at a meeting on April 29, 1997.

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Messenger-Inquirer  
2/5/00  
Online

## Former regent says university officials illegally purchased land

KOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — An ex-

regent at Western Kentucky University claims that former President Thomas Meredith and General Counsel Deborah Wilkins illegally purchased a parcel of land that was inside the Board of Regents' about it.

Meredith denied the allegations Friday. He said the purchase was proper and legal and the governing board was fully informed.

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*Continued on page 2*

## WKU

*Continued from page 2*

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# WKU tells fiery prof: Get over it

■ Former regent has challenged university counsel's business dealings

By the Daily News *May 25, 2000*  
Western Kentucky University on Friday issued the scholarly equivalent of don't go away mad, just go away to an outspoken professor and one-time board of regents member.

The statement from Peggy Loafman, current regent and former chairwoman of the board, came less than a day after Western psychology professor Ray Mendel underscored his longtime complaints about how the university has handled some of its business.

Mendel attended Thursday's Faculty Senate meeting and produced a \$55,000 university check that was dated April 1, 1997, that he contends was used to buy property at University Avenue and U.S. 31-W By-Pass.

The check — which appeared to have been cashed April 15, 1997 — was to Simeon and Susan Montgomery and Mendel argued proved his longtime contention the university bought the property before the board of regents had approved the deal.

The board of regents is the governing body for the university.

“The WKU Board of Regents believes these efforts to discredit Ms. Wilkins are clearly self-serving.”

— Peggy Loafman  
Former regents chairwoman

Mendel also showed a transcript from the April 29, 1997, in which Western attorney Deborah Wilkins told then-board member Joy Gramling — who had motioned to table a decision on whether to buy the property — “... I can't guarantee that it's going to be there. ... We can do lots of things, but it's not our piece of property and we have an offer on the table and so I assume that our person could say that once it's tabled, your offer to sell it ... I just want you to know I can't guarantee we can come back in July.”

Wilkins told the board the land was “a bargain” and the board voted to approve the purchase.

But, Mendel has argued, the vote was almost a month after the purchase was made.

Loafman, who was chairwoman at the time of the purchase, said in a statement Friday that “while it is true that documents and funds were exchanged between University Counsel Deborah Wilkins and the seller's attorney prior to formal approval of the purchase by the board, the purchase was not consummated until the board's final approval, and no illegal actions

occurred.”

Mendel, who was on the board of regents for six years, has called for “increased administrative accountability to the board and thereby the taxpayers” and the replacement of Wilkins as the university's legal counsel.

But Loafman believes prior conflicts between Wilkins and Mendel is the catalyst for the problems.

“The WKU Board of Regents believes these efforts to discredit Ms. Wilkins are clearly self-serving,” she said. “Ms. Wilkins is a diligent employee who continues to skillfully serve Western Kentucky University as general counsel. Cornelius Martin, current chair of the board, has confirmed Dr. Mendel does not speak for the Board of Regents and Mr. Martin has asked the university to no longer respond to Dr. Mendel's accusations.”

“This is damaging, for board members to be improperly and deliberately misinformed and to make decisions based on deceptive legal advice,” Mendel said.

“This is another reason why I believe in open meetings, because the public and everyone at this university deserves to know how their money is spent,” he said.

President Gary Ransdell said he was focused on the year 2000 and Western's future.

“This happened long before I was in the picture and I don't know what took place, although I believe it to be of no consequence — simply irrelevant,” Ransdell said.

Ransdell said it is not unheard of for payment to be made on property and then to be refunded if the board did not approve the purchase and that he understood Wilkins to be acting under specific instructions of then-president Thomas Meredith.

“I do know that the board has assured me that they are satisfied that the matter was handled properly, both before and after the purchase, and that they are satisfied with our representation in the matter,” he said.

# Governor appoints 3 trustees for U of L

Patton leaves  
board positions  
unfilled at KSU

By TOM LOFTUS  
The Courier-Journal

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Gov. Paul Patton yesterday appointed three new trustees for the University of Louisville and named trustees to governing boards of all other state universities except Kentucky State University, which is embroiled in controversy over the future of its president, George Reid.

At U of L, Patton named Grant Helman to replace Frank Hower Jr., who has resigned from the board. Helman, a Louisville attorney, is with the firm of Smith and Helman.

Among Patton's appointments yesterday, Helman is the only major contributor to Patton's political causes. Helman has given \$10,000 over the past two years — most of it to the Kentucky Democratic Party and some to Patton's 1999 reelection and his 1999 inaugural committee.

Patton also named Louisville developer Kevin Cogan to replace Steven Bing, and Elizabeth Howe Worland of Edgewood to replace Rose Lege, also of Edgewood, to the U of L board.

Patton also reappointed Chester Porter of Mount Washington to the U of L board. Porter is currently serving as board chairman.

And Patton reappointed Steven Reed of Louisville to a term on the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees. All appointments of regents and trustees made yesterday are for terms that end June 30, 2006.

Patton still has three appointments to make to the Kentucky State board and will probably make them late this month, said Patton spokesman Rusty Cheuvront.

The other higher education appointments made by Patton yesterday were: Cornelius Martin of Bowling Green, reappointed to the Western Kentucky University board; James T. Gilbert of Berea, reappointed to the Eastern Kentucky University board; Jerry Umberger, appointed to replace William Seaton on the Morehead State University board; Don Sparks to replace Thomas Burich of Lexington on the Murray State University board; Charles H. Brown, a Toyota executive, to replace attorney Philip Taliaferro III on the Northern Kentucky University board; Lorna Littrell of Henderson, reappointed to the Kentucky Community and Technical College System board; and Steve Catron of Bowling Green, appointed to replace Morton Holbrook of Owensboro on the Governor's Postsecondary Education Nominating Committee.

## Student life dean elected to regents

By the Daily News

Western Kentucky University dean of student life Howard Bailey was elected Wednesday to represent university staff members on the school's board of regents.

Bailey received 214 votes.

Bailey has been at Western for 29 years. He will serve a three-year term on the board beginning July 1.

He replaces Joy Gramling, who decided to not seek re-election.

JUN 18 1988

### WKU's regents to tour Glasgow campus

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents will take a field trip to the Glasgow campus Friday for its May meeting.

The regents will tour the new campus, which opened in January.

One of the items the board will consider is President Gary Ransdell's yearly evaluation, which is always done before the board passes the budget for the next year, Board Chair Kristen Bale said.

Bale appointed a committee to oversee the evaluation. That committee distributed surveys to the board members and collected them.

Bale and Vice Chair Lois Gray met with Ransdell to share the "very, very strong, excellent review."

Bale said the committee will come to the meeting with the recommendation for Ransdell's raise for next year, which will be considered with raises for the rest of Western's employees based on the proposed budget.

"All of this is pending our state legislators passing a budget," Bale said.

*Daily News* MAY 30 2002

# Regents pass land sale

In talks with Walgreen, the proposed price is \$1.3 million, VP says

By SCOTT SISCO June 1, 2002  
The Daily News  
ssisco@bigdailynews.com/270-783-3256

GLASGOW — Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents authorized President Gary Ransdell to sell a 1.67-acre lot at the corner of Nashville Road and Campbell Lane on Friday.

John Osborne, associate vice president for campus services and facilities, said the university is in talks with Hogan Real Estate, which works with Walgreen drug store. The proposed price is \$1.3 million.

"The details are yet to be resolved," Osborne said.

The lot contains Western's Applied Physics Institute building and a vacant house the university owns, Osborne said.

The university could sell three other lots, between the Colonial Manor nursing home on Nashville Road and the commuter parking lot around the corner on Campbell Lane, for commercial properties, Osborne said.

Osborne said Ransdell has said the proceeds will be put into the reserve fund.

Ransdell and the board decided that it would be better to sell the land than use it for educational purposes, Osborne said.

The board also voted to rename Central Hall in honor of former President John Minton.

The dorm will be renamed at a ceremony during Homecoming week in October.

"My family and I are very grateful for the consideration you have given us," Minton told the board.

Central Hall is scheduled to be renovated in 2002 and 2003.

The board also:

- Heard and update on campus parking from Gene Tice, vice president for student affairs. Western will lose 120 spots in the Diddle Arena lot, 42 faculty spots behind Thompson Complex and 40 spots along Virginia Garrett Street, which will remain closed after the renovations to the directional dorms is complete this summer.

- Approved an honorary doctorate for Frank T. Etscom III, who invented the nicotine patch. The degree was supposed to have

See REGENTS, 8A

## REGENTS, from 1A

been awarded at the May commencement ceremony, but Etscom could not attend. Ransdell said it will be awarded at the earliest opportunity for Etscom to attend a commencement.

- Approved history professor Carol Crowe-Carraco and geography and geology professor Ken Kuehn as University Distinguished Professors and designated 16 retired professors as Faculty Emeritus.

- Approved contracts for basketball coaches Mary Taylor Cowles and Dennis Felton.

- Approved a Donor Confidentiality Policy.

- Approved Ransdell's raise of

5 percent for the next year.

- Approved a tuition rate for distance learning education courses for part-time students.

- Approved a food service contract with Aramark.

- Approved the 2002-03 budget, contingent on Kentucky passing a state budget.

The \$193.3 million budget uses 43.1 percent for compensation enhancements and positions for faculty.

"We feel like our priorities are in the right place," Ransdell said.

Western's average of 4 percent raises for faculty is second only to Northern Kentucky among the state's universities, Ransdell said.



### Woman appointed to WKU Board of Regents

Glasgow native Ladonna Rogers was appointed to Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents last week by Gov. Paul Patton for a six-year term.

The 1985 Western graduate received a call from the governor's office Wednesday, her birthday, telling her she had been appointed.

Rogers replaces Peggy Loafman of Bowling Green, who was appointed in 1992 and reappointed in 1996 to a six-year term.

Board of Regents Chairwoman Kristen Bale is also from Glasgow. Rogers said she plans to buddy up with Bale to learn the ropes.

"I figure I've got a whole lot of learning to do," Rogers said.

She said she expects a lot of work, but it should be fun. Rogers has been on the Glasgow Independent School District Board of Education for about 1-1/2 years. She plans to continue serving on both boards.

Rogers' first meeting with the board of regents will be in August.

"I think it will be interesting," Rogers said.

*Daily News June 12, 2002*

## WKU regents vote reduces bond interest rates

**By the Daily News**

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents Executive Committee agreed to buy a new set of bonds to pay off two earlier bond issues.

The new bonds should save Kentucky, which pays the bonds, more than \$800,000. ABN AMRO Financial Services, Inc. was the low bidder.

Six companies submitted bids,

with interest rates ranging from 2.9823 percent to 3.0806 percent.

"This is substantially lower than we thought in August," said Chris Bowling, an analyst with Hilliard & Lyons who advises the state on bond issues.

Bowling said the standard savings of the refunded principal should be around 5 percent. This refund is at about 10 percent.

SEP 19 2002

# WKU has only two nominees for faculty regent position

Senate president, psychology professor up for position to be filled by election on Oct. 11

By Staff Writer  
The Daily News

contact@dailynews.com/783-3256

Western Kentucky University's faculty will have only two choices to replace faculty Regent Mary Ellen Miller.

Associate history professor and University Senate President Robert Dietle and psychology professor Betsy Shoen-

felt were the only two nominees for the seat. The faculty election is Oct. 11.

"I see the faculty regent as a person who can make a case to the other regents for academic views," Dietle said.

The faculty regent also must keep the big picture of what's best for the university as a whole in mind, Dietle said.

Shoenfelt said she thought about running, then decided not to. Then, after hearing there was only one candidate, she decided to run.

"I think it's important that faculty has a choice," she said.

There are 11 people on WKU's Board

of Regents. Eight of the positions are appointed. The board sets policy for the university.

Dietle, who has been at Western for 11 years, said the faculty, staff and student regent positions are very important because they are the only elected seats on the board. These regents are also more closely connected to the university, since all three are on campus day in and day out.

Miller has earned the respect of the other regents in her tenure, Dietle said. Miller served for six years as a faculty regent and decided not to run for re-

election.

"It's good to be following someone like Mary Ellen," Dietle said.

Since Miller will not return, the faculty regent will be new to the board.

"I think I have a very good skill set to be a regent," Shoenfelt said. "I think I can do a good job."

Shoenfelt, who has been at Western for 20 years, said the lack of candidates shows that the faculty at Western is very busy and thinks the position is important.

"They don't enter into it lightly," she said.

If Shoenfelt wins the regent seat and Dietle continues as president of the University Senate, Shoenfelt said the faculty will be well represented.

"I think it's important that we have good representation," she said.

Two of the issues Shoenfelt wants to tackle are to keep academics at the forefront and to address faculty salaries and benefits.

"I think we've lost some ground on that issue the past few years," she said.

The new regent will be sworn in at the Oct. 25 Board of Regents meeting.

# Western elects faculty regent Friday

## Psychology, history professor on the ballot

By SCOTT SISCO  
The Daily News

OCT 10 2002

scott.sisco@dailynews.com/789-3256

Psychology professor Betsy Shoenfelt realized this week that she had never run for any office before this year. She has served on many committees in her 20 years at Western Kentucky University.

"Every time, I've been asked to serve rather than run a campaign," Shoenfelt said.

Friday, she faces history associate professor Robert Dietle for the faculty's seat on the board of regents.

There are 11 people on WKU's Board of Regents. Eight of those positions are appointed, with the fac-

ulty, student and staff regents being elected. The board sets policy for the university.

Shoenfelt, the director of the industrial organizational psychology graduate program for the past nine years, said she has done lots of work behind the scenes to help Western's faculty.

"I truly believe my work on campus speaks for itself," she said during a sparsely attended faculty forum.

The committees that Shoenfelt has been a part of have been action oriented, including helping Western get ready for accreditation and developing plans for post-tenure review and dealing with sexual harassment.

"That's my trademark - I get things done," she said.

Dietle spoke about the challenges facing the next faculty regent, includ-

ing the budget, a lack of long-term planning in the university and salary and benefits for the faculty and staff.

The next faculty regent needs to work with the staff regent, he said.

"I think the staff and faculty working together can be much stronger," Dietle said.

He said another major priority for the faculty regent is to convince President Gary Ransdell and the other regents that academics should be the top priority of the university, especially when working with the budget.

"To them, it's more like an accounting problem," Dietle said. "We pay for the frills and the extras and then pay for the essentials."

There is a tendency for many universities, including Western, to draw on faculty for administrative duties, Dietle said.

"We need to be very protective of how the administration draws on faculty time," he said.

Fund raising also needs to be addressed, Dietle said.

"We've gone out and said, 'What will you give us money for?'" Dietle said. "We need to start moving to a more mature way of raising money."

After introductory comments, the floor was opened to questions from the dozen faculty members in attendance.

•Both candidates want to know how the faculty feels about issues so, if elected, they can vote how the faculty wants.

•The candidates were asked about the place of athletics on campus.

"I think athletics has a place on

## REGENT, from 1A

campus, but it's not first place," Shoenfelt said. "Academics has to be first."

"I think athletics is important, but I think we should be putting money toward athletics for all students," Dietle said.

Intramural sports, which are open to all students, are not paid for by the student athletic fee.

•Both candidates believe Western needs to make insurance affordable for all employees, even with a large expected increase.

The election to fill the faculty regent position is Friday.

See REGENT, 6A

# WKU faculty elects new regent

Associate history professor will serve three-year term

By SCOTT SISCO Oct. 12, 2002  
The Daily News  
ssisco@bgdailynews.com/783-3256

Robert Dietle was elected to a three-year term as faculty regent at Western Kentucky University on Friday.

Dietle, an associate professor of history, will replace English Professor Mary Ellen Miller on the Board of Regents when the board next meets Oct. 25. Miller served for six years as faculty regent and decided not to run for reelection.

In faculty voting, Dietle received 144 votes, while Betsy Shoenfelt, a professor of psychology, received 77 votes. A total of 221 votes out of a possible 504 were cast.

"I was happy with how it turned out," Dietle said.

Dietle, the current president of

the University Senate, said next week's meeting will be the last one he presides over.

"I expect that vice president Doug Smith will step up to be president," Dietle said.

Dietle has just two weeks to prepare for the next regents meeting. He said he plans to meet with Miller to see what the regents will have on their plate at the meeting.

"Between now and then I believe there will be several orientation sessions for me," he said.

Only about 40 percent of the eligible voters came out Friday, Dietle said.

"I'm a little puzzled by that," Dietle said.

He said the faculty doesn't have a big issue with the administration right now, which could have caused people to stay away.

"Plus it's a rainy Friday,"

Dietle said.

Shoenfelt offered her congratulations Friday night.

"I wish Dr. Dietle much success as faculty regent," she said. "I'm sure he will do a fine job."

Shoenfelt said she was a little disappointed with the voter turnout, but she thought the rain and the day of the week probably had something to do with it.

Western President Gary Ransdell was satisfied with the results.

"We had two bright, highly qualified candidates," said. "I am honored to know that Robert Dietle is the new faculty regent. He has been a superb leader of the University Senate and I know he will be an equally outstanding regent."

There are 11 people on Western's Board of Regents, eight of whom are appointed and three elected. The board sets policy for the university.

# Regents agree to buy properties

University has no immediate plans for land, but fits in to campus' master plan

By SCOTT SISCO  
The Daily News

ssisco@bgdailynews.com/783-8256

Oct. 26, 2002

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents faced several property issues in its quarterly meeting Friday.

While there are no immediate plans for the properties, they fit into the campus master plan, according to John Osborne, associate vice president for Student Affairs and Campus Services. Osborne said the university was acting because the properties became available.

Western has agreed to buy property at 1636 Forrest Drive for \$23,000. The property is adjacent to the former football practice field and offers better accessibility for future developments on the property. There is a vacant house on the property now.

"The house is completely of no value," Osborne said.

The property at 1674 Normal Drive will be bought for \$135,000 and is owned by the Assembly of God Church. It is adjacent to property owned by the WKU Foundation and across from Tate Page Hall.

"They let it be known they wanted to sell it," Osborne said.

The property at 1783 Chestnut St. will be bought for \$100,000. It is owned by Irene Erskine. The property is appraised at \$200,000. The remaining \$100,000 will be

See REGENTS, 8A

DAILY NEWS, BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

## REGENTS, from 1A

placed in a charitable annuity trust with the WKU Real Estate Corp.

"They came up with a creative way to sell the property," Osborne said.

The money for these properties will come out of the University's Reserve fund, said president Gary Ransdell. The fund is designed to pay for non-recurring expenses and the Board of Regents policy is to have \$2 million in the fund.

After these purchases, the fund will dip down to about \$900,000.

"You've got to find a way to replenish it," Ransdell said.

Western plans to use money from the sale of property at the corner of Nashville Road and Campbell Lane, which the board agreed to sell at the May 31 meeting to Hogan Development.

"We're not giving without the capacity to replenish it," Ransdell said.

The board voted to extend the contract on that property 60 days because delays have occurred in rezoning the property.

The board also accepted a gift of 44 acres on Hadley-Cohron Road from Sallie Carwell. The property will be used by the

Biology Department for a teaching and research center.

"It will be a great ecological laboratory," Ransdell said. "It's a neat gift."

In other actions taken by the Board:

- Approved emeriti status to Carl Chelf, government; Tom Baldwin, modern languages and intercultural studies; Donald Tuck, religious studies; Billy Adams, associate professor of agriculture; Ray Johnson, professor of agriculture; James McGuire, professor of agriculture; Cletus Mitchell, associate professor of agriculture; Will Normand, professor of agriculture; Robert Schneider, professor of agriculture; and James Worthington, professor of agriculture.

- Approved the inclusion of six counties into the Tuition Incentive Program: St. Louis and St. Charles counties in Missouri; Madison and St. Clair counties in Illinois; Montgomery County in Ohio and Pickett County in Tennessee.

- Approved modification of the Distinguished University Professor appointment policy.

- Approved modification to the non-resident tuition for non-resident (domestic) students.



## Regional Briefs



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# LONDON KY.

### Plane-crash victim's parents file lawsuit

The parents of a boy who was killed in a February plane crash in Pulaski County have filed a lawsuit in federal court.

Todd and Mia Zetter sued the owner and operators of the Cessna 421 that crashed as it came in for a landing at the Somerset-Pulaski County Airport. The suit claims the plane was negligently operated, leased or maintained.

The pilot and another passenger were also killed. Ryan Zetter, 8, died and his siblings and mother were injured in the Feb. 16 crash.

# FRANKFORT KY.

### Patton appoints university trustees

A Barren circuit judge who is a distant cousin of Gov. Paul Patton has been appointed to the University of Kentucky board of trustees, Patton's office said yesterday.

Phillip R. Patton of Glasgow was appointed to succeed Grady Stumbo of Hindman. James Franklin Hardyman of Lexington will replace Paul W. Chellgren of Villa Hills. JoEtta Y. Wickliffe of Harrodsburg was reappointed.

Other appointments include:

University of Louisville — Angela McCormick Bisig of Louisville to succeed Mary A. Yarmuth of Louisville, who resigned. Jessica S. Loving of Louisville, Marie K. Abrams of Louisville and Sandra Metts Snowden of Louisville were reappointed.

Eastern Kentucky University — Cynthia D. Rogers of Somerset to succeed Ernest Matt House of London; Orson Oliver of Louisville to replace Jane S. Boyer of Prospect.

Kentucky State University — JoJuana Leavell-Greene of Lexington to replace Brenda B. Schissler of Crestwood; Marlene M. Helm of Nicholasville was reappointed.

Morehead State University — John Cruse Merchant of Cincinnati to replace Charles M. Rhodes of Ashland; Jean Marie Dorton of Paintsville was reappointed.

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# Eyeing list of improvements, WKU board to talk tuition hike

Regents will meet Friday to consider \$200 increase per semester to fund recruitment, retention, equipment

By JASON DOOLEY  
The Daily News

OCT 30 2003

jdooley@bgdailynews.com/783-3276

Western Kentucky's Board of Regents will discuss a proposed \$200 per semester tuition hike Friday.

Last month's proposal by Western President Gary Ransdell would fund an ambitious plan to improve academic quality.

The increase would become effective next semester. It would annually generate \$5.8 million to fund faculty and staff recruitment and retention projects and improvements to academic support programs, classrooms and other facilities, Ransdell said.

"We want to ensure that Western maintains the highest academic quality at the undergraduate level in the state," he said. "This plan will allow us to do that at a reasonable cost."

This year, the state Council on Postsecondary Education's benchmark funding model showed Western's level of state funding to be about \$43 million below the recommended level. With another state budget shortfall of as much as \$247 million predicted for the next fiscal year, the chances of Western's funding situation improving are grim without the increase, Ransdell said.

If the board accepts the Executive Committee's recommendation at Friday's quarterly meeting, tuition for full-time undergraduates would increase to \$2,025 a semester for in-state students, with in-state graduate students paying \$2,199 a semester.

Full-time, out-of-state tuition would go up to \$4,449 per semester for undergraduates and \$2,379 a semester for graduate students.

The proposal would cap Western's normal tuition increases for the fall 2004 semester at 10 percent.

Western has undertaken widespread facilities and campus improvements over the past several years while academics has suffered from continued growth coupled with a state funding decline.

"It's academics' turn to get our attention," Ransdell said. "And tuition is basically the only way we have left under our power to control."

Western Provost Barbara Burch hailed the proposal as a much-needed shot in the arm.

"It's going to bring some welcome relief to academic programs that have really been struggling for lack of funding," Burch said. "We should begin to feel the effects of the plan very quickly."

Friday's meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. in Western's Mass Media and Technology Hall auditorium. If not completed by 11 a.m., the meeting will reconvene after the Hall of Distinguished Alumni induction ceremony and luncheon.

Also on the meeting agenda:

- Authorization for the issuance of \$11.1 million in bonds for construction projects at Dero Downing University Center and the Materials Characterization Center.

- Approval of the addition of an associate's degree program in hospitality management.

- Approval of an amendment to the board's by-laws to close a loophole in the University Disciplinary Committee appeals process.

# WKU regents set for annual look at school's operations

By JASON DOOLEY  
The Daily News

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents committees will meet Friday to prepare for a full board meeting scheduled for Jan. 23.

Among the items scheduled to come before the board's Finance and Budget Committee are audit reports on the school's NCAA compliance and the operations of Western's public radio and television stations, WKYU-TV and WKYU-FM.

Western General Counsel Deborah Wilkins said the audits are routinely done every year, usually around the same time, and that this year's reports showed no inconsistencies or problems with the procedures in place in the athletics departments or the media outlets.

"No one's brought anything to my attention, so I assume that nothing questionable or inappropriate was found," Wilkins said.

The college is in the midst of its NCAA compliance rule, which all Division-I schools must undergo every 10 years, said Pam Herriford, associate athletics director in charge of compliance.

The process has been going on for several months and will continue for the next several weeks, Herriford said.

"We've been cleared as being in compliance with Title IX and we'll have a peer review team on campus next month to evaluate us," she said. "We do this every 10 years on a rotating cycle."

Also on tap for Friday's meeting is an update on the federal and state legislative outlook by Robbin Taylor, Western's director of Governmental Relations.

Western has struggled over the past few years with funding well below the state's benchmark model because of a weakened economy that has created hundreds of millions of dollars in budget shortfalls.

In November, the state Council on Postsecondary Education requested \$65 million in additional funding, \$6.9 million of which is earmarked for Western.

The state budget has been one of the biggest issues looming over this year's General Assembly session since it began Tuesday, and Taylor has been in Frankfort this week to try and gauge the situation.

# Regents closing discipline loophole

Amendment would give Student Affairs final say on expulsions, suspensions

By JASON DOOLEY  
The Daily News

jdooley@bgdailynews.com/783-3276

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents will wait until its April meeting to give final approval to an amendment to the board's by-laws, closing a loophole in university disciplinary proceedings.

As written, the amendment would make the board's Student Affairs Committee the last word on all expulsions or suspensions from the university, rather than allowing students to appeal suspensions to the full board.

The reason behind the change is that because the regents only meet quarterly, a lengthy period of time could elapse between the SAC's ruling on a disciplinary action and the board subsequently hearing the case.

"We've only had one student go through the process during the past six years, and they were able to exploit this loophole," said Gene Tice, vice president for Student Affairs and Campus Services. "They didn't argue that they were innocent, they just took advantage of the fact that they were still enrolled while they waited for the board to hear their appeal."

However, Faculty Regent Robert Dietle suggested that the amendment should specify that the full board would still hear cases where the SAC failed to vote unanimously.

"The Student Affairs Committee only has five members usually," Dietle said. "If only a majority is required, then three votes could be enough to decide on an expulsion, and that's a very small fraction of the full board."

Western President Gary Ransdell said that while such a scenario is possible, it is unlikely to come up.

"In practicality, I don't think that would be the case, but it is possible," Ransdell said.

However, the board voted to adopt Dietle's suggestion and will



## INSIDE:

AD brings attention to athletes' skills in the classroom.

Page 6A

hold second and final reading of the modified amendment at its April 30 meeting.

Because no students are currently in the disciplinary process, waiting until April to finalize the change will have no real impact on the process, Tice told the board.

Tice also updated the board on the progress made by Western's food service system, which underwent major renovations last summer and has seen a significant upturn in business since they were completed.

"The program has exceeded our expectations," he said. "Total sales have been up about 29 percent over last year at this time."

That increase has meant an additional \$953,000 for Aramark, which operates Western's food service facilities, and generated an additional \$47,848 in commissions for the university, Tice said.

"We have more students and faculty members eating on campus and using our facilities," he said. "It's really remarkable how great a change there has been."

Regent Earl Fisher of Dallas asked if some of that money could be used to help offset the \$5.8 million budget cut imposed on Western by the state this month.

While such a suggestion would not be made ordinarily, it might be appropriate in this case, Fisher said.

"I wouldn't want that to be done on a permanent basis, because I think one of the things that excites this campus is the idea that if you generate some extra money, you can use it in your department," he said. "But this is a special year."

Ransdell said that while some

See LOOPHOLE, 6A

## WKU regents hoping for better recruitment

By JASON DOOLEY  
*The Daily News*

In addition to a four-year tuition schedule, Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents will also look at a plan designed to enhance the school's recruitment of highly qualified students nationwide at Friday's meeting.

The plan would add counties in the greater Atlanta, Tampa, Fla., and Chicago metropolitan areas to the Tuition Incentive Program, which allows qualifying students from those areas to attend Western at a cost equal to 125 percent of the in-state tuition rate, said Luther Hughes, vice president for Academic Affairs.

"Currently, we bring in only a few students from those areas, but we are confident that we can bring in enough additional students to offset the loss of revenue from out-of-state tuition," Hughes said.

The plan also extends the TIP program to include any non-Kentucky student who has a composite score of 24 or higher on the ACT and a high school grade-point average of 3.4 or higher.

Eventually, those numbers would likely be extended to all students in the program, but for now, they would help offset anticipated losses in the number of students coming to Western from Tennessee because of a new scholarship program there funded by the new state lottery, Hughes said.

The board will also make its annual evaluation and salary recommendation for President Gary Ransdell.

Ransdell's 2004 base salary of \$210,320 was lower than those of University of Kentucky President Lee Todd (\$265,000) and University of Louisville President James Ramsey (\$263,304), but higher than those of Eastern Kentucky University President Joanne Glasser (\$175,000) and Murray State University President King Alexander (\$170,000).

Ransdell's contract specifies that 28 percent of his salary is placed in a compensation plan account that is available to him by percentage until 2007, when 100 percent of the fund will be available, and guarantees a retirement benefit of 25 percent of his annual salary for 10 years if he retires on or after Jan. 1, 2012.

A long-term commitment clause in his contract also guarantees him a 25 percent base salary increase Jan. 1, 2007.

# Regents give Selig, Cowles more reason

## to win games

Athletics director, Lady  
Tops coach get new cash  
incentives for success

By JASON DOOLEY  
The Daily News

jdooly@baldynews.com/783-3276  
MAMMOTH CAVE — West-

ern Kentucky University's Board  
of Regents approved incentives  
laden contracts for Athletics  
Director Wood Selig and  
women's basketball coach Mary  
Taylor Cowles at its quarterly  
meeting Friday.

Faculty Regent Robert Diele,  
who, along with all other board  
members, voted to approve the  
contracts, requested that the uni-  
versity consider increasing incen-  
tive payments to faculty who  
advance from instructor to associ-  
ate professor, then continue on to  
assistant and full professor status.

"We just approved three con-  
tracts with fairly healthy incen-  
tive clauses built in, and that's  
fine, but one of the things that I'd  
like the board to look at is that the  
incentive for faculty who are pro-  
moted is '\$1,000,' Diele said.  
"It's been that way for 20 years or  
so, and, as we're all aware,  
\$1,000 isn't as much as it used to  
be."

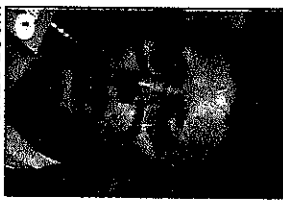
Western President Gary Rans-  
dell said Diele's suggestion is a  
good one and that the university  
will look at increasing the bonus  
payments as part of ongoing aca-

demic quality improvement  
efforts funded by tuition increases  
over the past  
two years.

"Those are  
significant  
milestones,  
and we  
should rec-  
ognize that,"  
Ransdell  
said. "Espe-  
cially given  
that we could  
increase the  
amount sig-  
nificantly  
without hav-  
ing a large  
impact on  
overall uni-  
versity fund-  
ing."



MARY T. COWLES  
Lady Tops coach



WOOD SELIG  
WKU athletics director

Selig's  
four-year  
contract has  
an automatic  
one-year  
renewal that  
kicks in next summer and pays  
him a base salary of \$122,430  
annually.

But Selig stands to earn sub-  
stantially more from the battery  
of incentives built into the deal,  
including bonuses of one month's  
salary if the men's or women's  
basketball teams or the football  
team make the postseason — and  
\$25,000 if any of them win the

See REGENTS, 5A

DAILY NEWS, BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Local/region/state/From Page 1

### REGENTS, from 1A

national championship.

Selig's contract also calls for  
him to share in any revenue  
increases generated from the ath-  
letics department's ticket sales  
and includes other bonuses for  
completion of softball, soccer and  
baseball facilities renovations on  
campus.

By comparison, the Courier-  
Journal in Louisville reported last  
weekend that University of Ken-  
tucky Athletics Director Lee  
Barnhardt will make \$375,000  
plus up to \$150,000 in bonuses  
this year, while Tom Jurich at the  
University of Louisville will earn  
\$226,018 plus a potential  
\$260,000 in bonuses.

Closer to home, Ransdell's  
salary will pay him \$250,000 this  
year.

Cowles's contract runs through  
2008, with additional one-year  
extensions automatically granted  
in 2006 and 2007 given good per-  
formance.

The coach will earn a base  
salary of \$105,000 annually, with  
several potential bonuses, includ-  
ing \$250 for every team member  
who graduates from Western, a  
month's salary for an NCAA tour-  
nament bid and for every round  
the team advances in the postsea-  
son tournament, and a month's  
salary if she is named National  
Coach of the Year.

In other matters, the board  
approved the submission of an  
application to the state Council on  
Postsecondary Education for a  
waiver of penalties after a CPE  
audit showed Western deficient in  
three of the eight categories of the  
state plan for equal educational  
opportunities.

Western narrowly missed insti-  
tutional goals for graduation rate  
and retention rate for Kentucky-  
born African-American students  
last year, making the waiver nec-  
essary, Vice President for Acade-  
mic Affairs Luther Hughes said.

"We were short 42 students for  
the retention goal out of about  
900, and we were 12 short of the  
goal for graduation," Hughes  
said. "Traditionally, we've not  
met our graduation goals and  
graduate student recruitment has  
been problematic because of the  
competition for those students,  
but this year, we dropped below  
the goal on retention for the first  
time in several years."

Western also fell short of its  
goal of having 5.2 percent blacks  
among graduate students, with  
only 3.2 percent of the school's  
1,979 graduate students falling  
into that category in 2002, accord-  
ing to the waiver application.

Typically, about half of the  
state's eight public universities  
fall into a similar situation each

year because of various factors,  
including competition among the  
institutions to recruit black stu-  
dents, Ransdell said.

This year is the only the second  
time since 1997 that Western was  
deficient in three areas, triggering  
the need for the waiver and a plan  
to address them, he said.

"Unfortunately, one of the  
problems that comes with rapid  
enrollment growth is retaining  
those students," Ransdell said.  
"Because we've had so much  
growth, our goals are very aggres-  
sive, and so we have had some  
problems with falling behind in  
these categories this year."

Western is taking steps to cor-  
rect the problems and is improv-  
ing, Hughes said.

"We're confident that by next  
year we'll have addressed the  
problems," he said.

The university is also nearing  
completion of its quality enhance-  
ment plan for the ongoing accredi-  
tation process with the Southern  
Association of Colleges and  
Schools, committee member  
Dennis George told the board.

The report is due by Aug. 13  
and will be reviewed by an off-  
site team in Atlanta that will spot-  
light any particular areas of inter-  
est that SACS wants more infor-  
mation from Western about for a  
follow-up report, George said.

Once that report is done, an on-  
site team will visit Western in  
April to review the campus, pay-  
ing particular attention to any  
items flagged by the off-site team,  
he said.

In other business on Friday, the  
board:

•Appointed Cornelius Martin  
as board chairman and Earl Fisch-  
er as vice-chairman for the 2004-  
05 year.

•Recognized outgoing regents  
John Bradley, Ronald Sheffer and  
James Tennill.

•Approved a plan to sell a his-  
toric home owned by the univer-  
sity at 1425 State St. in Bowling  
Green for a price at or above the  
assessed fair market value of the  
property, to be determined by a  
university-approved appraiser.

•Conferred emeritus status on  
English professors Wanella Hud-  
dlestone, Joseph Millichap and  
Janet Schwarzkopf and chemistry  
professor William G. Lloyd.

•Approved resolutions to sell  
2,320 square feet of property  
fronting Nashville Road to the  
state Transportation Cabinet for a  
widening of the road and 0.33  
acres of land on Morgantown  
Road and Forrest Drive to Bowl-  
ing Green Municipal Utilities for  
its water tower. Amounts of both  
sales are to be determined after  
appraisals of the properties.

# WKU rolls out red carpet for new leaders

By JASON DOOLEY  
*The Daily News*

MAMMOTH CAVE — The Western Kentucky University Board of Regents welcomed two new members and got a firsthand look at ongoing cooperative projects with Mammoth Cave National Park at the annual board retreat Thursday.

Western President Gary Ransdell welcomed Louisville attorney Larry Zielke and Bowling Green resident Judi Hughes, owner of Hughes Homes Inc., to the board after they were appointed by Gov. Ernie Fletcher at an informal meeting Thursday to start the retreat.

Zielke, who graduated from Western in 1970, said he was excited to begin his term and impressed by improvements made on campus.

But he cautioned against trying to overextend the university's resources.

"My only concern is that you can't be everything to everybody," Zielke said. "We have limited resources, and those have to be applied in a smart way to make us be great."

Hughes said, "I'm very hon-

ored by the opportunity, but it's a tremendous responsibility."

The primary topic for discussion was change at Western since Ransdell's tenure began six years ago.

Four of the current regents — Cornelius Martin, Kristen Bale, Lois Gray and Earl Fischer — were serving when the president was hired, and the longtime members took the opportunity to discuss the hiring process.

"You were appointed because we wanted someone to transform this university, which I think we have done, but we need to continue," Bale said.

The other three agreed.

"I think that was probably the defining moment for the university," Martin said. "When (former president) Tom Meredith left ... it's not that he left it in bad shape, it's just that we had no growth, and the university was very stagnant."

Several options were considered during the search process for Meredith's successor, but the choice made turned out to be the right one, Fischer said.

"We were at a point where we could have gone several different

ways and luckily it went the way we did," he said. "We had to have an innovative leader that could see a beautiful campus out there, and we found one."

"I'm confident that the two of you will be a great addition to our board and I'm looking forward to working with you both," he said.

After the short meeting, board members traveled throughout the park, visiting various projects being done as joint efforts with park officials.

The opportunity was a good one for the board to see the results of their work in action, Ransdell said.

"The board hears me talk about this institutional transformation, applied research and identifying and solving problems," he said. "But this is a chance for them to get a strong sense of the breadth and scope of these academic programs by hearing from the National Park Service and seeing the collaborative research taking place."

Park Superintendent Ron Switzer thanked the board for sharing the resources of the university with the park.

JUL 30 2004

## WKU regents vote to purchase \$60,000 property near South Campus

By COURTNEY CRAIG *Oct. 30, 2004*  
*The Daily News*

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents voted Friday afternoon to approve the purchase of a piece of property adjacent to the university's South Campus on Nashville Road.

The \$60,000 property at 2365 Nashville Road will house a new transportation center, which will provide a storage and maintenance facility for the university's buses. It may house the offices of the newly approved parking and transportation department as well.

"We've been working on this for some

time," President Gary Ransdell said.

The 2.94-acre property, which is located behind the Colonial Manor Nursing Home, is adjacent to South Campus on Nashville Road and the Campbell Lane parking lot. The appraisal fair market value of the property is \$90,000, but Western is buying it for \$60,000 and providing the seller, Warren County Health Care Services Inc., with a tax-deductible charitable gift of \$30,000.

The money for the land will come from the parking and transportation department's budget, which is generated through parking tickets and decal fees.

Also during Friday's meeting, the board heard a presentation from Ransdell on the proposed long-term tuition plan, which would provide new undergraduate students with the opportunity to pay their tuition years in advance with a fixed increase rate each year. The item was first discussed during the regents' executive committee meeting earlier this month.

"The student can pay in advance and lock in that 5 percent increase, regardless of the tuition schedule approved by the board," Ransdell said.

Although the item will not be up for vote until the board's January meeting, board

members were responsive to the proposition. Ransdell said he does not expect the option to be widely popular at first, but will gain more participants as it goes.

It is also a low-risk opportunity for Western because tuition hikes should not be much more than 5 percent in the years following 2007-08, when the current tuition increase plan approved by the board expires.

"Plus, it makes us look good because it shows we are making an attempt (to make tuition more affordable)," said Patti Johnson, who was sworn in as the board's new student regent Friday.

# Regents OK deal for land

Apr. 30, 2005

## Purchase would pave way for Greek Village

By COURTNEY CRAIG  
The Daily News

ccraig@bgdailynews.com/783-3243

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents voted Friday to purchase a piece of property from the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center for \$1 million.

However, the approval of the sale hinges on a vote by Bowling Green's City Commission to move forward with the realignment of 14th Street. If the commission votes to move forward, Western will use the new land for a community of fraternity and sorority houses known as the Greek Village; SKyPAC will move forward with plans to locate the performing arts center downtown in the proposed Circus Square.

If the city commission does not move forward with the realignment, Western will still own the land, but will allow SKyPAC to build the performing arts center on that land adjacent to campus for a lease of \$1 per year.

"This property must be conveyed to Western so we can allow the city to work on 14th Street," WKU President Gary Ransdell said. "This agreement is what we've proposed to SKyPAC, and we intend to close the deal by June 30."

The SKyPAC board agreed to Western's proposal in a Thursday meeting.

See REGENTS, 6A

## REGENTS, from 1A

In other action, the board of regents unanimously approved a 5 percent salary increase for Ransdell for the 2005-06 year. That raises his salary by \$12,500 to \$262,500. Last year, the president received a 14.5 percent salary increase.

Regent Kristen Bale praised Ransdell's work as president, a position he's held since 1997.

"Not only does this board have the utmost respect for your leadership, we also have the highest regard for your integrity," she said.

Ransdell's salary is still lower than those of many other university presidents — the heads of Northern Kentucky University, the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville all made more than \$270,000 in the 2003-04 academic year.

Also during Friday's meeting, the board:

- Approved changing the university's address from 1 Big Red Way to 1906 College Heights Blvd. following a recommendation from the Centennial Committee. Western will celebrate its 100th birthday next year, and committee members say the address change honors Western's founding year and the historical address of College Heights Boulevard. One regent, Judith Hughes, voted against the name change, citing student disapproval — the College Heights

Herald, Western's student newspaper, has editorialized against the change.

- Approved a guarantee for new students to graduate in four years if they enter into a contract, following certain guidelines. The brainchild of Western's Student Government Association, the Four-Year Graduation Guarantee would provide new students entering certain majors with a "curriculum map" that, if followed, would guarantee enrollment in needed courses. If a student follows the criteria and still does not graduate in a four-year period, Western would pay tuition for the student for the rest of his or her tenure.

- Approved amended tuition rates for the 2005-06 school year. Following a better-than-forecast budget from the state, Ransdell said Western can afford to cut the tuition hike by 1.8 percent, saving each student \$62 for the year. That means undergraduate residents will pay \$2,580 for the fall 2005 semester and \$2,736 for spring 2006; undergraduate nonresidents will pay \$6,288 for fall and \$6,884 for spring; graduate residents will pay \$2,830 for fall and \$3,000 for spring; international graduate nonresidents will pay \$6,910 for fall and \$7,340 for spring; and domestic graduate nonresidents will pay \$3,100 for fall and \$3,290 for spring.



# Regents OK new minors

## Applications up from last year

By COURTNEY CRAIG  
The Daily News  
ccraig@bgdallynews.com/783-3243

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents unanimously approved the creation of four new minors and a new certificate program during a Friday afternoon meeting.

The new minors include water resources, designed for students interested in careers involving hydrology; American humanics, an interdisciplinary program that prepares students for careers in nonprofit organizations; geographic information systems, which prepares students for careers that use GIS as a tool; and sexuality studies, a cross-disciplinary exploration of human sexuality.

July 23, 2005  
ality. The new undergraduate certificate in Kentucky studies program is an interdisciplinary look at the cultural and natural history of the state.

"This will complement our curriculum," WKU President Gary Ransdell said.

Provost Barbara Burch said there will be no cost for adding the minors and certificate program, as the courses that will make up the programs are already offered. They will simply be restructured in a way to give students more opportunities for minors. No new faculty will be added.

"We're increasing the options for students who are already here," Burch said.

Also during Friday's meeting, the board heard a presentation from Luther Hughes, associate vice president for academic

See REGENTS, 5A

SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2005 - PAGE 5A

## REGENTS, from 1A

affairs, on Western's projected enrollment for this fall. As of July 1, Western had received 653 more applications for freshman admission than the same date last year. It has admitted 52 more freshmen than last year.

"We're very pleased with this response," Hughes said.

However, Western has received about 600 fewer applications from Tennessee students than in previous years. Hughes cited the Tennessee lottery, which created an in-state scholarship program for college students, for that decline.

However, Western did receive 700 more applications from Kentucky students than last year.

"We are concerned about Tennessee, but our goal is to maintain a stable enrollment," Hughes said.

According to Gene Tice, vice president for student affairs and campus services, 64 more students have applied for on-campus housing than the same time last year. Of the 4,951 beds available in Western's dorms, 4,419 of them have already been assigned.

In other action, the board:

- Re-elected Cornelius Martin of Bowling Green as chairman of the Board of Regents. Martin was elected to a second one-year term. Earl Fischer of Dallas was elected vice chairman, while Katie Dawson, a Radcliff senior, was sworn in as student regent.

- Approved a contract for Chris Finwood to become the new baseball coach. Finwood will be paid \$75,000 a year, can keep any endorsements and is paid bonuses as his team wins tournaments bids and championships.

## Yvette Haskins named WKU regent

The wife of a former Western Kentucky University basketball coach is returning to the Hill.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher this week appointed Yvette Haskins of Campbellsville to serve on the university's board of regents.

Haskins, wife of former Topper coach and player Clem Haskins, replaces Kristen T. Bale, whose term expired June 30.

The Haskins' daughter, Clemette, was also an All-American basketball player for WKU.

"I am very honored to serve on the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents," Yvette Haskins said in a news release from the governor's office. "My family and I have such deep roots at Western. I consider this a great opportunity."

Haskins attended Kentucky State University. She serves on the Lake Cumberland Area Development District Board of Directors, as chair of the American Heritage Trail task force and as co-chair of Greater Campbellsville United.

Western President Gary A. Ransdell said he's known Yvette Haskins for many years and said she will be a great addition to the board. Her term will run through June 30, 2011.

Daily News  
AUG 02 2005

**WKU**

# New name for Potter pitched

By BRIAN WHITE  
*The Daily News*

The Potter College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences' name was not intended to be a tongue twister, but it has tripped up everyone from prospective students to longtime professors nonetheless, the school's dean said Friday at Western's Board of Regents committee meetings.

The full board will vote at its April 7 meeting on whether to trim the name by seven syllables, to the Potter College of Arts and Letters.

"It takes me forever to introduce myself," Potter College Dean David Lee said during the academic committee's session.

The name of the school, Western's largest in enrollment, is difficult for people to remember at a time when the college is trying to raise its profile, Lee said.

"I just think that's a list, not a name," he told the committee.

There are no set standards for naming colleges like Potter, but several universities, including the University of Notre Dame and Michigan State University, use the term arts and letters, Lee said.

"Potter College of Arts and Letters just has a nice, clean feel to it," he said.

Provost Barbara Burch distributed a final report on Western's inaugural Winter Term during the committee meeting.

The winter term compressed a semester of learning into three weeks during winter break; options included on-campus courses, online classes and study abroad.

The report included a survey of students. It found that most were satisfied with their experience, with 39 percent saying the term exceeded their expectations, 55 percent saying it met them, and 6 percent saying the courses did not meet expectations.

The survey was conducted online and 613 of 1,584 winter term students responded.

When asked in an open-ended question what students liked least about the term, the top three com-

plaints were that three weeks was too short a time to process the information in an entire course, that daily classes were too long, and that students were only allowed to take one course.

The winter term brought in more tuition revenue than was needed to cover its costs. Tuition and fees brought in \$871,497, of which \$200,000 was not needed to cover costs, according to the report.

Of that money, \$75,000 was set aside to help with planning for future winter terms, and \$125,000 was placed into the reserve fund for the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach, the department that oversaw the term.

During the executive committee meeting, the regents heard about a \$46 fee that Western President Gary Ransdell has proposed to help pay for three construction projects: a new health center, a campus-wide wireless computer network and renovations to the Fine Arts Center.

Student Regent Katie Dawson, who is president of the Student Government Association, told the other regents that there will be a campus-wide forum March 30 for students to discuss the fee.

The fee will be bought before the full board for approval at the April meeting, Ransdell said.

Also at the meeting, the academics committee approved three new programs, as detailed in committee documents:

- A master of science degree in technology management, a program for technology industry employees who want to improve their leadership, management and problem-solving skills.

- An undergraduate minor in outdoor leadership, which will train students in the skills needed to become "outdoor professionals and to lead groups responsibly in the backcountry."

- A certificate program in advanced accounting studies, which adds more in-depth study of the subject for undergraduates in the accounting program.

## Regents honor Martin, tap new chairman

By **BRIAN WHITE** June 17, 2006  
The Daily News  
bwhite@bgdailynews.com/783-3243

The Western Kentucky University Board of Regents meeting Friday was the first since the death of board Chairman Cornelius A. Martin in a traffic accident earlier this month.

A portrait of Martin stood on a table next to a vase of flowers in the board meeting room that bears his name, and the board passed a resolution in his honor.

The special meeting of the full board, which was held before the

regents' scheduled committee meetings, was called to appoint a new chairman as well as pass next year's budget.

Vice Chairman Earl Fischer was selected the new chairman



**EARL FISCHER**  
WKU Board of Regents  
chairman-elect

See REGENTS, 6A

## REGENTS, from 1A

by a board committee, but was not scheduled to take the post until the July board meeting.

"We certainly have lost not only a leader of the university, but every one of us, I think, feels like we have lost a friend," Fischer said at the meeting.

The resolution listed Martin's contributions to the board, on which he had served since 1994. He was chairman from 1998 to 2000, and was nearing the end of his 2004 to 2006 term when he was killed in Logan County on June 3 while riding his motorcycle.

The resolution said Martin's "loyal service and dedication to his responsibilities have made significant contributions to the University."

Lois Gray, who was appointed vice chairwoman at the meeting, read the resolution, her voice faltering as she did so.

Martin owned more than 15 auto dealerships, including several in Bowling Green. He also owned two Harley-Davidson dealerships, one in Bowling Green and one in Louisville.

He was riding his own Harley with three other local businessmen when a pickup truck crossed the center line and struck them. Brooks Mitchell, a banker, also died, and auto dealer Bill Leach-

man was injured. Only Vette City Liquors owner Lloyd Ferguson was unhurt.

The driver of the pickup, Mickey L. Mosher, 54, of Warsaw, Ind., was arrested and remains jailed on charges of second-degree manslaughter, first-degree assault, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving under the influence.

Fischer is a longtime board member who served with Martin throughout his board term.

"We worked together for 12 years, and we were personal friends," Fischer said after the meeting.

As the new board chairman, he plans to focus first on revisions to the university's strategic plan, which is up for review this fall.

"That will be the first thing on my agenda," said Fischer, who is vice president for utility operations at Atmos Energy.

He also wants to work to make sure that Western employees' pay continues to rise to be competitive with other schools. The average raise at Western next year will be 3 percent, less than the average of 4 percent it has been for the past several years.

"We still need to get it higher" to attract the best faculty and staff to Western, he said.

WKU

# Regents OK Grise Hall replacement

New business school to go at same site

By BRIAN WHITE  
The Daily News

bwhite@bgdailynews.com/783-3243

July 22, 2006

It took less than three weeks for the new head of Western Kentucky University's business school to talk its president into tearing down the program's building.

The university had planned to renovate Grise Hall, the home of the Gordon Ford College of Business, Western President Gary Ransdell said at a Board of Regents meeting Friday.

But the business school's new dean, Bill Tallon, told Ransdell that a new building would attract students and professors and help boost its image, Tallon said during a break Friday.

See REGENTS, 5A

## REGENTS, from 1A

"My personal opinion is that it would be much more productive, effective and efficient to build a new building," Tallon said.

The argument was convincing, Ransdell said at the meeting.

"He arrives in July, we have one lunch and he convinces me to completely replace Grise Hall," Ransdell said.

Western had planned to spend \$38 million on the renovations, and will now use that money for the new building, which will be built on the same site as the old one.

The university wants the state to cover repayment of the bond that would pay for the new building, but has not yet received approval for that from the General Assembly.

Tallon started at Western on July 1. He had previously been the interim dean of the business col-

lege at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., where he had worked in various positions for 16 years.

That university built a new business school several years ago.

"When we added a new building, we were able to attract better students, better faculty," Tallon said. It also helped attract more money from donors and partnerships from companies, he said.

Tallon said he wants to raise the profile of Western's business school, and a new building would help in that.

"When you have a really nice academic facility, I think people really want to be a part of that," Tallon said.

By attracting more people to the business school, which Tallon said has many excellent programs, it could become a regional leader in the field, he said.

Western "can soon have everything in place to be one of the finest undergraduate business schools in the South," Tallon said.

### New board members

Two new regents were sworn in at Friday's meeting. Both were elected, one to represent employees who are not professors and the other to represent Western's students.

Tamela Smith, Western's manager of interactive video services, was elected as staff regent. She has worked in various jobs and on every shift Western has, which she said gives her an understanding of many staff concerns.

"I wanted to run for regent because I felt like I could be a very effective voice on staff issues," Smith said after the meeting.

Those issues include the perennial concern about salaries, as well

as understaffing, she said.

"There are a lot of departments that are understaffed for the growth we are experiencing," Smith said.

Student regent Robert Watkins' position on the board came with his election as president of Western's Student Government Association this spring.

Being a regent will help him better work for students, the philosophy and political science major said after the meeting.

"It's an important part of advocating for students, and it certainly helps you have a better understanding of how the university works so you can make better decisions as SGA president," Watkins said.

### Federal funds for academy

A U.S. Senate panel approved \$1.5 million in funding Thursday for the Kentucky Academy of

Math and Science at Western.

The academy, which is currently under construction in Florence Schneider Hall on campus, will house high school juniors and seniors in an intensive two-year program.

The students will live in the academy and take college courses. When they graduate from the academy, the students will have a high school diploma and 60 college credits, about half of what is needed to earn a bachelor's degree.

The money, approved by the Senate's appropriations committee, must still be voted on by the full Senate as part of the education department's budget.

At Friday's board meeting, Ransdell credited Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, a senior member of the appropriations committee, for getting the funding into the budget.

## WKU football vote

# Board of Regents will decide issue Thursday

By RACHEL ADAMS Nov. 1, 2006  
The Daily News  
radams@bgdailynews.com/783-3256

A vote on I-A football and approval of \$10 million in bonds for upcoming projects are on the agenda for Thursday's meeting of the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents, to be held in the Blandford Lecture Hall at Owensboro Community and Technical College.

The Board of Regents is the final university group to vote on the proposed move to college football's most competitive level, and has the last say in the matter. About 19 percent of Western's 19,000 students voted in a recent online poll about the move, with 64.6 percent of that number in

favor of it. A faculty vote came out 176-93 against the move, and the university's staff voted 167-138 in favor of it.

At least one member of the board has stated a position on the vote — faculty Regent Robert Dietle, who previously said he would oppose the move. Student Regent Rob Watkins, president of the Student Government Association, was on the fence last week about his vote, but could not be reached for comment.

The change to I-A football would cost the university \$3.5 million a year, with about \$2.7 million of that extra cost being made up by a \$70-per-semester

See FOOTBALL VOTE, 10A

PAGE 10A - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2006

From F

### FOOTBALL VOTE, from 1A

student fee. Western President Gary Ransdell has said students will be charged that money regardless of whether the football program is upgraded.

The move to I-A football, if approved, would be effective in fall 2007. During a series of meetings on campus last month, Ransdell said the move would increase Western's profile. Some other reasons include:

- The Sun Belt Conference, in which Western plays all its sports but football and men's soccer, has been putting pressure on Western to make the move out of the I-AA Gateway Football Conference since the Sun Belt started offering football in 2000.

- Under new rules, all I-A football teams will receive at least a small share of revenue from the 30 bowl games held every year.

- With 119 I-A schools and 60 bowl-game berths, there are more postseason opportunities than in I-AA, in which 123 teams vie for 16 playoff spots.

- Western is in violation of the federal Title IX law, which requires equal spending on men's and women's sports. However, unlike most schools in violation, Western is spending more on women's scholarships than men's. The 23 additional football scholarships required by a move to I-A would balance that.

Another item on the agenda would authorize the issuance of \$10 million in bonds to fund some capital projects coming up late this year and early next year, university Controller Jim Cummings said.

Projects include South Campus parking and dining improvement, renovations for the Kentucky Academy of Mathematics and Science, construction of a student health services building, information technology infrastructure, and the design phase of a second academic athletics building, Cummings said. It hasn't yet been decided which projects would be funded and in what amounts.

# WKU makes move to I-A

Hilltopper football to join Sun Belt in '09

By **NORM HANEY**  
*The Daily News*

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**NOV 03 2006**

The future of Western Kentucky football has been decided — now the waiting begins.

The WKU Board of Regents voted to upgrade the football program to Division I-A during a meeting Thursday in Owensboro — a move that will take small steps before jumping completely into the mix in 2009.

"We're excited. We've been monitoring this situation for years, but the timing just presented itself recently," WKU athletics director Wood Selig said. "Now I guess is the time since the board has voted to just roll up the sleeves and get to work and make this transition a success."

The Hilltoppers are currently members of the Division I-AA Gateway Football Conference. Next season will be the first of two transition years before WKU becomes a full-time member of the Sun Belt Conference in 2009 with eligibility for both the conference championship and a postseason bowl appearance.

**"I** t's just been very, very positive. I really think this is going to be a real sense of pride for WKU. **"**

**Wood Selig**  
WKU athletics director

The move has been the cause of much debate throughout the university, from the top all the way to the bottom. The vote passed 7-2 with one abstention. Since the vote passed, Selig says he's gotten nothing but positive feedback from a variety of people, ranging from Hilltopper students, alumni and other athletic directors from around the country.

"It's just been very, very positive. I really think this is going to be a real sense of pride for WKU," Selig said. "It's been overwhelming. My phone has been ringing since last night. People from all over the country that are peers and friends have been calling, texting me, e-mailing me."

WKU coach David Elson, his staff and players are not available to comment on the move until the end of the 2006 season. The Hilltoppers (5-3, 4-1) play at Northern Iowa this Saturday in a game that will go a long way in deciding the outcome of the Gateway race.

For the WKU sophomores and juniors, the next two seasons will not offer the same postseason possibilities. The Hilltoppers will not be eligible for either the I-AA playoffs or any bowl consideration during the next two seasons as they transition to I-A. That scenario has made this season even more important for the players who came to WKU with the hopes of competing for a national championship.

"We've got to get it done this year, because this might be my last year to go to the playoffs," WKU wideout Curtis Hamilton said earlier this year. "Next year, we're making the move — so you know — this is it."

The move to I-A football will allow the Hilltoppers to add 22 more full scholarships for football. The football

**See WKU, 3C**

# WKU OKs move to I-A

NOV 03 2006

Team will begin playing  
at highest level in 2009

By **RACHEL ADAMS**  
*The Daily News*  
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OWENSBORO — The Western Kentucky University Board of Regents voted 7-2 Thursday to approve Western's move to I-A football, the highest level of college

## Inside

See reactions to the  
move.

Page 1C

giate competition.

One regent abstained and one was absent for voting at the quarterly meeting.

Robert Dietle, the faculty's appointee to the board, and Regent Forrest Roberts voted against the move, with staff Regent Tamela Smith abstaining because she wasn't given a chance to ask a question.

"I would have voted yes had I been able to ask a question," Smith said after the vote, which was hastened when Regent Larry

Zielke moved to end the debate and call the matter to question.

Roberts was the first regent to voice her concern about the move to I-A at Thursday's meeting, saying she hadn't been given enough information to make an informed choice.

"I am not convinced that this isn't going to become a real money drain for this university,"

she said.

Moving from I-AA to I-A will cost the university about \$3.5 million a year, with much of that being made up by a \$70 increase in student tuition, Athletics Director Wood Selig said at the meeting. The transition to I-A will be made over a three-year period, he said, and should result in \$300,000 annually in ticket sales

by 2009, the year the Hilltoppers will fully become a I-A team. New marketing and licensing initiatives are in place as well, he said.

"I'm confident we can exceed the revenues and, of course, we're going to be very cautious in our spending," Selig said.

Zielke said he views the move

**See WKU, 6A**



# WKU board approves land buy, new minors.

By NATALIE JORDAN  
The Daily News

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Mar. 31, 2007

The Western Kentucky Board of Regents approved the purchase of land Friday for the new College of Education and Behavioral Sciences building.

WKU will use state bonds to purchase 1666, 1670 and 1680 Normal Drive for \$707,500 plus closing costs. The area bordering Normal Drive, Regents Avenue and Mimosa Alley is where the building will be constructed.

Ross-Tarrant Architects and Turner Construction evaluated four potential sites for either a two- or three-story building. Their evaluations considered site suitability, cost, campus circulation and aesthetics. Their final report listed pros and cons for each site and a recommended site.

See NEW FACILITY, 5A

From Page 1A

## New facility, being financed by state bonds, will cost \$35 million

After review from the Campus Master Plan Committee, the recommendation was made to go with the Normal Drive site, said John Osborne, associate vice president of campus services and facilities.

The site was picked based on its proximity and potential for future expansion and access to utilities.

Osborne said the university does not plan to do anything with the properties until January 2008. Sororities occupy 1666 and 1670 Normal Drive.

"But following the purchase of the properties, we will lease them back to the sororities for use until we need them," he said. "We are working with them to relocate."

The \$35 million building is a state-bonded capital project, though not one affected by current legislation, Western President Gary Ransdell said.

"This was passed for the 2006-08 biennium," he said.

The finance and budget committee approved the issuance and sale of the more than \$43 million general receipt bonds.

"Many times, out of a sense of urgency, we take this to the committee as a whole," said Ann Mead, chief financial officer at WKU. "We wanted to take the time to bring this to the committee."

The bonds include \$5 million for the Academy of Mathematics

and Science, \$1 million for an informational technology infrastructure, \$4 million for the student health and services building, \$7 million for improvements to South Campus and \$35 million for renovations and expansion of L.T. Smith Stadium.

Although the bond will not cover the total cost of the projects — \$52 million — Mead said the projects are partially funded through other funds, such as campus rebuilding fees and academic quality fees.

Board members asked about a \$1.9 million reduction in state support, which Mead said is normal when a issued bond is retired, and which she said does not affect the \$43 million bond sale.

The bonds are set to be sold in May with the board's approval as a whole.

### New programs

With the University Senate's approval, given during their March meeting, the university will add two new minors and a graduate certificate to its list.

A graduate certificate program in autism spectrum disorders will be established and meets the uni-

versity's strategic goal of increasing student learning. The 15-hour graduate course prepares students to provide services to individuals diagnosed with autism.

"We're seeing a real need ... as we see a huge increase in individuals with autism," said Marty Bowman, director for the autism program at Western.

The other program being added is a minor in investigative biotechnology — a skill-set minor, said Nancy Rice, assistant professor of biology.

"The motivation for this came out of the major," she said. "This is for students who do not want this as a major but would like to use biotech skills in other disciplines."

A minor in sales was also added. Rick Shannon, chairman of the marketing department said there is a growing emphasis and a competitive advantage for students.

"This will bring in students who are interested in sales," he said. "It fits naturally with majors that already exist and it gives students the opportunity to get a sales background."

From Page 1A

Regents discuss safety, other issues

crazed student and no amount of technology would have stopped that, but it could have helped in limiting the number of those injured.”

The discussion was prompted by the shootings at Virginia Tech University, the suicide in Keen hall and the student with a concealed weapon on campus.

“Campus safety has been a focus for four or five years,” said Gene Tice, vice president of Student Affairs and Campus Services. “We still have a lot of work to do.”

Eighty-five buildings comprise the campus, which is spread across 200 acres. The college community is an open environment, he said.

Ransdell said WKU Police are fully trained to investigate bomb threats, and are now scheduled for training to handle active shooters.

Ransdell said the university will consider having students sign a waiver, which would allow campus officials to order emergency medical treatment – including, but not limited to, a psychological evaluation.

The only such waiver available is under the Family Education and Privacy Act, which shields student records unless that student signs the waiver. If the student doesn’t sign the waiver, Tice said, the university could see litigation, noting MIT was sued and settled out of court for \$27.7 million because a student’s records were discussed without their consent.

“It’s not going to be perfect,” Regent Yvette Haskins said. “We have to go with what we have and hope it’s the best we have.”

Other issues

Regents approved the purchase of Lots 2 and 3 of Colonial Court – located just off Normal Drive across from Southwest Hall – for \$105,000.

Both properties are single-family dwellings, one of which is in good condition, the other in fair.

The two properties may be used for visiting scholars – faculty and students from other nations who study or conduct research at the university.

“It’s in our zoned area and speaks to the university master facilities plan,” Tice said.

The board also approved the sale of \$43,205,000 worth of bonds. The bonds are to be sold by May 30, according to the university’s schedule.

The bonds would go to finish the following projects: Schneider Hall renovations for the Academy of Mathematics and Science, information technology infrastructure, Health Services Building, L.T. Smith Stadium renovation/expansion and South Campus improvements.

“This bond will fully finance the remaining cost of those projects that were funded under the \$10 million bond sale this past fall,” WKU Treasurer Ann Meade said.

The board authorized Mead to accept the lowest bid and award the bonds.

The board also:

- Swore in SGA President Jeanne Johnson of Marion as student regent.

- Approved the revised mission, vision and statement of purpose for the university. Originally set to come to the board in July, Ransdell said its approval was needed for accreditation of the university’s doctoral program.

- Approved the 2008-14 six-year capital plan, which includes eight projects vetoed by Gov. Ernie Fletcher in 2006, and again delayed during the 2007 General Assembly.

- Approved a resolution recognizing Lindsey Thurman, a senior from Russell Springs, as the recipient of the National Collegiate Honors Council Honors Student of the Year Award.

- Approved three new academic programs. One was a minor in investigative biotechnology, the second a minor in sales.

- Approved a graduate certificate program in autism spectrum disorders. The 15-hour program will begin this fall and will prepare students to provide educational, social, behavioral and community services and information to individuals diagnosed with ASD, as well as their families.

WKU SAFETY

Regents meet to plan for calamity

Virginia Tech shootings, recent suicide spark discussions on university’s emergency plans

By NATALIE JORDAN

The Daily News

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Apr. 28, 2007

In the wake of last week’s Virginia Tech shootings – as well as a recent suicide in Keen Hall – Western Kentucky University’s Board of Regents met Friday to discuss the university’s emergency and crisis plans, which President Gary Ransdell said will be updated

The plan, he said, will include a way to send e-mails, text messages and have the campus Web site updated with necessary information in case of an emergency.

“In theory, when the campus hears sirens that mean emergency, they’ll be able to get somewhere to get the e-mail, check the Web site or their cell phones,” he said. “But it’s going to take massive training, which is going to take time. I want to flush out the bugs so when we test this it’ll be right. I don’t want to do it and botch it, and have a story saying we’re not prepared.”

Tice said the use of cell phones during a crisis tends to lock up cell towers, making it difficult to get through, but text messaging has a greater capacity.

Currently, parents’ e-mail addresses aren’t kept on file, Ransdell said, nor are students’ cell phone numbers. That means the university has to acquire students’ cell phone numbers, Tice said.

To that end, students’ Internet-based informational system, TopNet, has been modified to gather parent information and cell phone numbers.

“The thing about the VA Tech is they only had one system,” said Regents Chairman Robert Fischer, chairman of the board. “But we ought to do all we can to get the points out. It’s a conglomeration.”

Richard Kirchmeyer, vice president of information technology, said what the university needs is a unified gateway with output sent to various places.

“Let’s not be under illusion here,” he said. “It was a

See REGENTS, 5A

Inside  
Campuses  
across county  
raising questions  
on guns, safety.  
Page 8A

# Western decides to raise salaries

June 23,  
2007

Regents approve \$4 million for 4 percent across-the-board hike; increases to be based on merit

By NATALIE JORDAN

The Daily News  
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Western Kentucky University faculty and staff should see an increase in salaries after initial approval Friday of the university's budget. More than \$4 million of the university's \$314 million budget

will be placed in a 4 percent salary increase pool. The money will be doled out based on merit.

"Every person is evaluated by the senior administrator in their department," said Ann Mead, chief financial officer. "How much their salary increases is based on that evaluation."

The faculty and staff compensation report provides all recommended salaries for filled positions and vacant positions.

Human Resources Director Tony Glisson said the university doesn't know how Western's salary increase compares to those of benchmark universities.

"There are salary adjustments being made. I'm sure at all the universities," he said. "We should be doing that type of (comparisons to benchmarks) in the near future."

Mead said 59 percent of the budget is for employees — primarily salary and benefits for employees and student workers. The university allots salaries for more than 2,000 positions — 41 percent being faculty, she said.

"There was discussion of the salary increases in the University Senate's executive committee, where (President Gary) Ransdell did communicate this," said Julie Shadoan, who will replace Michelle Hollis as University Senate chairwoman Aug. 1. "I haven't heard any runblings about the increase. It is an improvement from

See WESTERN, 5A

## WKU by the numbers

Operating budget for 2007-08: \$314,642,000  
Restricted funds: \$59,591,000

Grants and contracts: \$29,116,000  
Student financial aid: \$30,475,000

Self-generated revenue and carry forward funds: \$29,535,800

Auxiliary enterprises: \$19,037,000

State-supported debt: \$1,280,600

Academy for Math and Science: \$2.3 million

Public funds: \$202,397,600

State appropriation: \$82,315,600

Tuition and fees: \$120,062,000

— WKU

From Page 1A

## Western's overall operating budget increasing by 7.1 percent

what we've seen in the past."

WKU will see a 7.1 percent increase in its operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The university's budget — a \$20.8 million increase from last year — was unanimously approved during the Board of Regents committee meeting Friday.

Mead said the focus of the budget is on public funds, from which most of the discretionary spending is made.

While the university's budget has a considerable amount allocated from restricted funds — those designated by the federal government, self-generated revenue and auxiliary enterprises, such as the bookstore, food services and housing — 64 percent of it comes from public funds.

Public funds are comprised of tuition and fees, which make up 38.2 percent of the budget, and the state's appropriation, which makes up 26.2 percent of public funds. The largest single source of revenue to Western is tuition and fees, a \$9.8 million increase from fiscal

year 2007, which includes graduation fees, athletic fees, distant learning and course fees where they apply.

Ransdell said it is a concern that the state appropriation — though up \$6.2 million — only comprises 26 percent of the budget. He said the university is meeting the demands for economic development and growth, and is serving the region in a dramatic fashion.

"We are grateful for the increased state dollars," he said. "But I am concerned with the diminishing investment as a percent of budget."

Out of the budget is \$16.3 million for: unavoidable costs, strategic initiatives, such as \$2.3 million for the Academy of Mathematics and Science and instructional costs; and other campus priorities, such as the move to Division I-A for its football team and new staff positions in student services and facilities management.

There has been an increase in students and faculty, but not staff. Ransdell said they will be adding

more staff positions in the future, but those in student services and facilities management are a priority.

"All are important priorities," Mead said. "These provide continuous improvement for educational opportunities at Western."

Restricted funds comprise 18.9 percent of the total operating budget, a decrease of \$1.7 million from the previous year's budget. But auxiliary enterprises have increased by \$1,599,000 from last year's budget.

The capital outlay budget, which includes projects awaiting authorization and those vetoed from the General Assembly, are included in the enacted 2006-08 biennial budget.

"There's significant growth with us, and I am pleased with the budget. It's a significant point of progress for us," Ransdell said. "We're pressing the envelope on all other revenue, which creates capacity for improved and new programs, student services and the pursuit of international prominence."

# WKU OKs plans

Deal a partnership with the city

By NATALIE JORDAN

The Daily News

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The Western Kentucky University Board of Regents approved a motion Friday to enter into a Master Development Agreement with the city, county and Alliance Corp.

The agreement would create a tax increment financing district through a public-private partnership to redevelop an area connecting WKU to downtown Bowling Green.

The board's approval of the agreement between the three entities is pending upon approval and authorization by Warren County Fiscal Court.

The TIF district would generate incremental tax revenues of \$200 million, which will fund \$74 million worth of projects. The TIF will pay all financing costs, including increased interest accrued during construction, bond issuance costs and interest expense over a 30-year period.

As part of the agreement, WKU will

See WKU, 6A

From Page 1A

## WKU also commits to leasing parking spaces

include Van Meter Hall's renovation and the north campus parking lot construction projects. The university will retain all control of the project designs, construction oversight and funding. The Van Meter Hall renovation is part of the seven projects vetoed by the General Assembly and awaiting authorization from the state to continue past the design phase.

Although the project will be included into the TIF district, the university will still have to wait for the General Assembly's approval, President Gary Ransdell said.

"This will not circumvent that," he said. "We will wait until we have authorization ... \$200 million will take years to unfold, and once the project is approved, it'll be the first in the TIF to materialize."

Also as part of the agreement, WKU would commit to leasing 200 parking spaces in a proposed downtown parking structure for \$250,000 per year for 15 years and for \$1 per year for an additional 15 years.

Ransdell said the recurring leasing cost will be built into the university's base budget.

City commissioners approved the Master Development Agreement on June 12. The agreement establishes deadlines for certain steps in the process, such as the creation of a TIF district by Aug. 1.

Ransdell said the projects WKU is including into the district are consistent with the theme and nature of the Bowling Green TIF.

"These projects are an intricate part that match up well with Bowling Green," he said. "The important piece of this is we won't get TIF revenues from these projects. But adding these projects cements a logical partnership."

The board also heard an update on the capital construction projects. John Osborne, associate vice president of campus services and facilities, said the list contains 18 projects totaling \$181 million. The university has already done \$183 million worth of renovations and upgrades since 1998, he said.

Combined, about \$364 million worth of renovations have been in the works for the university.

Osborne said Snell Hall, where renovations started in 2005, is scheduled to be completed a year early. The projected completion date for the 74,000-square-foot building is spring 2009, if construc-

tion continues on track, he said.

Osborne said a little more than 90 percent of the construction to Schneider Hall — which will house the Academy of Mathematics and Science — has been completed.

"A dedication date has been set for Aug. 26," he said. "Schneider had a complete renovation from a new roof to new appliances."

Osborne said it will be the first building to have the new security system. The doors will be locked at all time, requiring students to have an identification card for entrance.

While most of the projects are awaiting funding, are in the design phases or have less than 50 percent of construction completed, Osborne said the project that will be the most disruptive is renovating the electrical distribution.

This is continuing to replace the underground high voltage distribution system, which will run from the top of the hill down. Osborne said that will align the Mass Media and Technology Hall to be on the university's electrical system.

The project was budgeted at \$1,987,000.

"We're trying to do this in high-volume areas before school starts," he said. "But it will have an impact, because we will not be able to complete this before school starts."

In other business, the board of regents:

- Elected Lois Gray of Elizabethtown as chair for 2007-08. The board also elected Jim Meyer of Bowling Green as vice chair and Elizabeth Esters as secretary. They will serve through June 30.

- Approved a minor in Facility and Event Management, a bachelor of science in Sport Management and a bachelor of science in Exercise Science, all offered through the Department of Physical Education and Recreation in the College of Health and Human Services.

- Approved a master of science in Homeland Security Sciences, offered through the departments of Physics and Astronomy, Biology and Chemistry in the Ogden College of Science and Engineering.

- Approved changing the name of the University Honors Program to Honors College.

- Approved resolutions honoring retiring faculty and staff members who have 1,157 collective years of service to WKU.

# Johnson replaces Fischer on WKU board

By **ROBYN L. MINOR**  
*The Daily News*

Local auto dealership owner Jim Johnson will join Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents.

Johnson replaces Earl Fischer, who left the board June 30 and has retired from his vice president post at Atmos Energy.

While not replacing auto dealership owner Cornelius Martin, who was killed last year in a traffic accident, Johnson said Martin certainly will be a good regent to emulate.

"I hope I can serve as well as he did ... but I don't see myself trying to fill his shoes," Johnson said.

Johnson already has ties to the university, including three siblings who graduated from there; two adult daughter graduates and three granddaughters who have either attended or will graduate.

He also has served on several university advisory committees, including one recently formed that will look at improving or finding new facilities for campus safety operations.

Johnson said that committee was in its infancy when his name popped up for consideration for the regent's position.

The committee has yet to meet but Johnson said he is familiar with the university's needs, having been a friend for years of campus police Chief Robert Deane.

"After the Virginia Tech shootings, we know how important it is to have the ability to quickly respond," Johnson said.

"With a law enforcement background, even though it was

ancient history (he was a Detroit police officer and federal agent), I think that is something that I can bring to the table," he said.

Western already has an aesthetically pleasing environment and it is important to make sure it is as safe and secure, Johnson said.

After Gov. Ernie Fletcher's appointment Wednesday, Johnson said WKU President Gary Ransdell called to congratulate him.

"He said there would be an orientation," Johnson said.

Johnson, whose term expires in

2013, said Western already has accomplished a great deal since Ransdell's arrival and even before, and he hopes he can help continue that progress.

The owner of Jim Johnson Pontiac-Nissan-Hyundai in Bowling Green, he is a member of the board of trustees for the Bowling Green Salvation Army and the Commonwealth Health Corporation Foundation and Free Clinic and chairman of the Bowling Green Public Library Board. He is a member of the Bowling Green

Area Chamber of Commerce and was named Small Business Person of the Year in 2002.

Johnson has served as president of the Kentucky Automobile Dealers Association, campaign chairman for the local United Way and honorary chairman for the local March of Dimes. In 2006, he received the Jefferson Award for Public Service, the Lion's Club Good Citizen Award and the WKU Volunteer Award. He attended Wayne State University in Detroit and is married to Darlene Johnson.

WKU

# Ransdell in place for next 15 years

Nov. 3,  
2007

Board of Regents gives president big vote of confidence by extending stay, pending review every four years

By NATALIE JORDAN

The Daily News

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Western Kentucky University President Gary Ransdell is now in position to lead the university until 2022.

The university's Board of Regents on Friday approved an addendum to Ransdell's contract, extending his employment in four-year increments pending satisfactory annual reviews, board chairwoman Lois Gray said.

"It's imperative for him to be on board with the transformations taking place on this campus," Regent Yvette Haskins said.

As of July 1, Ransdell's base salary was \$351,561, said Bob Skipper, media relations director for the university.

Under the amended contract, Ransdell — who became WKU's president in 1997 — will receive annual adjustments to his salary, as well as longevity incentives: a 15 percent salary increase in 2012 and another 10 percent increase in 2017.

Ransdell will also receive other incentives: the WKU Foundation has established a non-qualified, deferred compensation trust for Ransdell. The trust, through the College Heights Foundation, will be funded by annual \$50,000 payments from

See REGENTS, 5A

From Page 1A

## Regents OK new programs, plans

the WKU Foundation, which now pays Ransdell \$25,000 annually. This and an additional \$25,000 will be redirected to the trust, according to university officials.

The university will also pay \$5,000 a year in long-term health care insurance for Ransdell and his wife, Julie.

"I am very grateful," Ransdell said. "This board is in a unique position in terms of focus. And I could not be more honored to serve my alma matter in this matter."

In other action, the board:

- Swore in two new regents — Jim Johnson and Dr. Patricia Minter.

- Approved a new minor in construction management and a graduate certificate program in International Student Services, and reaffirmed the approval to establish a doctorate in educational leadership, which the board approved in January (pending approval from the state Council on Postsecondary Education).

- Approved a revised six-year capital plan. The plan places a focus on restoring and renovating existing facilities and upgrading campus infrastructure.

- Approved the purchase of property at 504 Regents Ave. for \$165,881.90. The site is to be used for the new College of Education and Behavioral Sciences facility.

- Approved revisions to the 2007-08 operating budget. It had an increase of \$9.7 million in unrestricted net assets that was not built into the budget, said Ann Mead, chief financial officer for the university; those funds will go to several departments for program enhancements and fiscal management.

# AG: Western violated open meetings act

By JUSTIN STORY  
*The Daily News*

A ruling issued Tuesday by the state attorney general determined that the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents violated the Open Meetings Act when it discussed disbanding the men's soccer program and firing of coach David Holmes during a closed session.

During the Jan. 25 meeting, WKU athletic director Wood Selig briefed the board on the decision to fire Holmes as a result of his position being eliminated due to the termination of the men's soccer program.

No action was taken during the open meeting regarding the men's soccer program.

The College Heights Herald, WKU's student newspaper, filed a complaint with Attorney General Jack Conway alleging the violation.

"The board expanded the scope of the personnel exception and improperly concealed matters oth-

erwise appropriate to the view of the public," states Conway's 11-page letter announcing his decision.

State law allows public governing bodies to enter closed sessions for discussions or a hearing which might lead to the appointment, discipline or dismissal of an individual employee, member or student.

That exception does not extend to discussion of general personnel matters, which the attorney general's office interpreted was the purpose of this particular session.

The ruling does not affect the university's decision to disband the men's soccer program.

"I'm not sure based on the comments in the ruling that it's clear whether the board did anything wrong," said Deborah Wilkins, WKU's general counsel who made the decision to go into closed session at that meeting. "We are not going to contest or appeal the decision and consider the matter closed."



# Regents OK 9 percent tuition hike

APR 25 2008

## Final approval up to state CPE

By NATALIE JORDAN

The Daily News

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Western Kentucky University's

Board of Regents on Thursday

approved a 9 percent tuition hike

for the 2008-09 school year.

The board's recommendation

will now go to the Council on

Postsecondary Education for

approval May 9.

The 9 percent hike means

tuition for students will increase

\$284 per semester next year. In-

state undergraduates will pay

\$3,492 a semester next fall, up

from \$3,208. Nonresident tuition

will rise from \$7,735 to \$8,364.

But the hike was met with resis-

tance, and a counter motion by

Louisville regent Larry Zielke to

approve only a 6 percent increase

— as outlined in the university's

strategic plan — and to petition the

**"For the General Assembly to forget other revenue streams and put (this) on the backs of families is wrong."**

Larry Zielke

WKU regent

"For the General Assembly to

forget other revenue streams and

General Assembly to find addi-

tional revenue for education.

put (this) on the backs of families is wrong," Zielke said. "They're placing the burden on Kentucky families. I don't see why we have to give the General Assembly an easy way out."

The motion was seconded by

student regent Jeanne Johnson,

See RANDELL, 6A

From Page 1A

## Ransdell says university has 'no choice'

who said she appreciated Zielke's line of thinking. But the motion failed 9-2 with Johnson and Zielke voting in favor. The 9 percent increase was approved 9-2, with Johnson and Zielke voting against the measure.

"I think (Zielke's) motion was made with good intentions," said WKU President Gary Ransdell.

However, Ransdell said without knowing if a special General Assembly session would be called, the university has "no choice" but to follow the current state budget. He said there are only 60 days until the start of the 2008-09 fiscal year, and with close to 20,000 students coming to Western next fall, the university can't wait to see if a session will be called without being prepared for next year.

"I'm not saying 9 percent is good, but we are where we are," Ransdell said. "We can't go forward without a budget."

Ransdell said a lot of people are suffering from the General Assembly's decision to scale back funding for various state agencies to balance the state's budget shortfall. Higher education is taking a harsh hit, but not as harsh as other state entities, he said.

The tuition hike and other previously announced WKU budget cuts are a result of a 6 percent state cut to higher education. For WKU, the cuts mean a \$5 million loss in state appropriations over the next two years.

The tuition increase — if enrollment stays strong, Ransdell said — will generate \$8.6 million for the university, which will go to fund strategic initiatives such as the university's new doctoral pro-

gram, its campaign budget to reach its capital campaign goal of \$200 million and study abroad and internationalization opportunities. He said funding such initiatives allows WKU to meet the state's and university's agenda for higher education.

Johnson said while she sees the need for a tuition increase, she can't support a \$370,000 allocation to the Honors College because it only benefits a select group of students and not the entire student body.

But Ransdell said the Honors College is part of the university's strategic plan for future growth.

Revenue from the tuition increase will also be used for a \$500 per employee salary increase, which Ransdell said will be recurring.

Faculty regent Patricia Minter said the tuition increase doesn't offset the fact the university is moving backward. She said faculty resignations are higher than they have been in previous years and some positions have been cut.

"We have to address what these reductions mean," she said.

Ransdell said the tuition hike is fairly consistent with other state universities. Western's tuition is still below that at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville, which are also seeking 9 percent tuition hikes, and slightly above Northern Kentucky University.

Ransdell said he would provide regents with a detailed plan for dealing with the total 6 percent budget reduction for 2008-09 when they meet June 27 to approve the 2008-09 budget.



## WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

# Regents updated on variety of projects

By NATALIE JORDAN  
The Daily News

Six new projects and a campus signage project were showcased Thursday to Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents during its monthly meeting.

But the campus signage project was met with some resistance because of the possible perception that it was an unneeded project during a time of budget cuts and tuition hikes.

The project, which had been postponed because of design changes, is now ready to be implemented, said Helen Siewers, landscape architect for the university. The project's cost is \$500,000 and will be financed with the university's restricted funds, she said.

Siewers said the signage project will create a campus inviting to visitors, and has been a long-range vision "playing out over a number of years."

However, faculty regent Patricia Minter wanted to know if the project could be deferred at a time when the budget will be tight.

"It's a concern," Minter said.

WKU President Gary Ransdell said any project that hasn't started or been contracted for could be deferred. But he said the \$500,000 is one-time money that was set aside for the project.

The signs will make the campus easier to navigate, Siewers said. The project calls for large signs at the entryways of the campus, small signs around campus and building markers. Sidewalks and crosswalk improvements are also included in the funding.

"This campus sells this university," said regents

Chair Lois Gray.

Regents also heard about other WKU projects in various stages, including an upgrade to the steam plant air quality system, the construction of a baseball clubhouse, Faculty House improvements, new turf for the football stadium, the Owensboro campus administration building and the food court being constructed between Pearce-Ford Tower and Keen residence halls.

John Osborne, associate vice president of campus services and facilities for WKU, said the \$2.3 million food court project was paid for by the Student Life Foundation. He said construction is under way — plumbing is in place and the frame of the building is up, and should be completed by August.

Osborne said the food court building will contain a convenience store, a Mexican restaurant, an Eddy's ice cream parlor and a Popeye's Chicken restaurant — the first on a college campus. The building will also offer wireless Internet, he said.

Board members also heard updates on several other projects, including Van Meter Auditorium renovations, the Preston Center expansion, Ivan Wilson renovation and the North campus parking lot.

The projects will start July 1, said Robbin Taylor, assistant to the president for governmental relations.

In other action:

- The board approved the transfer of a lot adjacent to Lost River Cave to the Friends of Lost River Inc., along with a 99-year lease with the Friends of Lost River Inc. for the Lost River cave and valley.

- The board approved the naming of the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex.

# Board of Regents at WKU OKs amended downtown agreement

By NATALIE JORDAN  
The Daily News  
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Oct. 11, 2008

The executive committee of Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents approved Friday an amendment to a Master Development Agreement with the city, county and Alliance Corp. for its part in a downtown parking structure, expanding the university's commuter parking capacity.

As part of the amended agreement, WKU would commit to leasing 200 parking spaces for \$250,000 per year for 20 years and leasing 300 spaces for the remaining 10 years at the same rate. The full Board of Regents approved a similar agreement in July 2007; however, the agreement then was to lease 200 spaces for 15 years at \$250,000 a year and at \$1 per year for an additional 15 years thereafter.

See OFFICIALS, 5A

From Page 1A

## Officials get update on enrollment numbers

While the full board voted for the agreement in 2007, the agreement met opposition Friday from regent Forrest Roberts, who voted against the action during the board's committee meetings.

"I can't see this as a good deal for campus," she said.

Roberts said her concern is in the university paying out more than \$7 million for 30 years to lease parking spaces. President Gary Ransdell said in July 2007 that the recurring lease cost will be built into the university's base budget.

But Ransdell said to build a parking structure would cost the university more than \$7 million plus debt service. Instead, the university is not incurring debt, and it's a "straight \$250,000" they would be responsible for.

"If going to issue debt, I want it to be for academic services," Ransdell said.

Under the agreement, if the city bonds are paid in full prior to the 30-year agreement, WKU's financial obligation would be \$1 per year. The parking spaces will be available from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Also, the university would not be responsible for staffing nor maintenance of the structure, Ransdell said.

Ransdell said while this isn't a great business deal, there is a need for a commuter lot downtown. In 20 years, enrollment could boast 30,000 students — "and cars aren't going away."

"We live in a world that's transportation-dependent," he said.

A plan to expand the 106-acre downtown redevelopment district to 383 acres got tentative approval from Bowling Green city commissioners Tuesday night. The new district would encompass virtually all the old downtown area, from the L&N Depot and Historic Railpark on Kentucky Street all the way to The Medical Center's frontage on U.S. 31-W By-Pass, and crossing the Barren River to include Mitch McConnell Park. It includes possibly \$40 million in bonds to pay for a new building at The Medical Center for WKU's nursing program.

Regent Jim Johnson said Western's involvement is two-fold — it achieves the university's goal of moving cars off campus and tying WKU more to the community.

### Other matters

The academic affairs committee also got an update on enrollment, which shows the university is on track with growth. Preliminary numbers show enrollment to be at 19,555, with 16,010 full-

time students. That is up from a total enrollment of 19,265 last year.

Bob Cobb, director of institutional research, said the university is still reinstating about 400 students who were dropped because of nonpayment. He said he anticipates enrollment going up, topping out at around 19,600.

According to the preliminary numbers, both male, female, white, black, Hispanic and Asian student numbers have increased from fall 2007; so has the number of out-of-state transfer students, students that are Kentucky residents and first-time, first year freshmen.

While enrollment numbers are on target, according to Cobb, the number of those going into elementary education or the 4-year nursing program has dropped, which is a concern for student regent Johnathon Boles, who referred to these areas as the "bread and butter" of Western.

Sam Evans, dean of the College of Education, said since offering middle grades education at the regional campuses, the number of elementary education majors has declined. He said also a lot of recent elementary education graduates are not getting jobs because of the downturn of the economy.

"We need to focus on these areas," Boles said. "And maybe re-evaluate our 'bread and butter' areas."

The finance and budget committee approved a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of General Receipts Bonds 2008 Series A for \$49 million for the following projects: Van Meter Hall and Science Campus phase III renovations, expansion of Preston Center phase II, parking lot construction and the renovation of Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center and replacement of the Gordon Ford College of Business.

The \$49 million is meant to cover the cost of construction and the cost of issuance of the bonds. The sale date of the bonds is slated to be Dec. 4, but could be delayed until spring if the market remains in bad shape.

The board also approved to purchase 2.01 acres of property located on Rocky Hill Road in Warren County to be used as a biological preserve under a grant from the Kentucky Land Heritage Conservation Fund Board.

The grant requires the university to purchase and hold title to the property. All purchase costs and property acquisition costs are being funded through the grant, which totals \$123,265.51.